

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**AMERICAN POWs/MIAs IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA  
(SUMMARY)**

**PART 17 OF 26**

**FILE NUMBER : 100-457899**

SUBJECT

POW/MIA

FILE NUMBER

100-457899 Vol 7

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

NI 67C PER EO 12812-2

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
FROM : SAC, WFO (100-50739) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: COLIFAM  
IS-MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT

DATE: 9/22/70

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/22/93 BY SP-3

Re Dallas airtel to Bu dated 8/20/70.

On 9/17/70 [redacted] of the National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing In Action In South East Asia, WDC advised that their group does not maintain a master list of POWs and MIAs except the one that has been widely published in local newspapers. [redacted] also advised that she has received no further information about the activities of COLIFAM then has already been reported, but that if any information comes to her attention she will immediately contact WFO.

For the information of the Alexandria division, on 8/19/70 [redacted] United We Stand, Dallas, Texas, advised that he was in Vientiane, Laos during 12/69 and rode from the airport to the hotel with CORA WEISS. WEISS had just arrived from Hanoi. [redacted] also advised that Mrs. [redacted] wife of [redacted] and two other women were also in Vientiane, Laos at this time and had breakfast with WEISS.

Mrs. [redacted] present address is [redacted] Va., and her home telephone is [redacted] is employed at [redacted] This information was supplied by Mrs. [redacted]

2 - Bureau  
2 - Alexandria (100-373) (RM) REC-39  
1 - WFO  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE



59 SEP 28 1970

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

WFO 100-50739

ALEXANDRIA

AT [REDACTED] VIRGINIA

Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED] for any information  
she may have concerning her contact with CORA WEISS.

*6012 m~*

*lc*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 9/18/70

FROM : SAC, ALEXANDRIA (100-373) -P-

SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM  
(COLIFAM)  
IS-MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT

(OO:New York)

349,570  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/2/93 BY 803  
POW/MIA Special EO-12812

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau, 7/3/70, and  
Alexandria airtel to the Bureau, 7/6/70.

The following offices of the headquarters for  
the casualty sections of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and  
Air Force were contacted by SA [REDACTED] for the  
purpose of ascertaining those next of kin of POW's and  
MIA's who have had personal contact with members of the  
captioned organization.

[REDACTED]  
U. S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Casualty Section  
Navy Annex, Room 4316  
Arlington, Virginia

[REDACTED] advised that should interviews  
be desired with the next of kin, it would be advisable to  
first contact the specific military office which is located  
opposite the names of the next of kin:

REC-39 100-457899-122

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)
- 2 - Alexandria

EX-117

22 SEP 22 1970



55 SEP 29 1970

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Next of kin of missing or captured Marines who have been communicated with by the Committee of Liaison:

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - POW

b7c  
b6  
b7c

Inspector-Instructor  
Marine Corps Reserve Training Center  
495 Summer Street  
Boston, Mass. 02121

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - POW

b7c

Inspector-Instructor  
Naval and Marine Corps Reserve  
Training Center  
19th and Mission Streets  
San Jose, Calif. 95112

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MIA

b7c

Captain Faulkner  
Personal Affairs Officer  
MCAS, El Toro  
Santa Ana, Calif. 92709

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - POW

b7c

Captain Faulkner  
-Same-

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - POW

b7c

Commanding Officer  
Marine Barracks  
U. S. Naval Air Station  
Jacksonville, Fla 32212

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - POW

b7c

Inspector-Instructor  
Naval and Marine Corps Reserve  
Training Center  
Foot of West Washington Street  
East Peoria, Ill. 62633

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - POW

b7c

Officer in Charge  
Marine Corps Recruiting Station  
30th and Fort Streets  
Omaha, Neb. 68111

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - POW

b7c

Commanding General  
Marine Corps Air Station  
Cherry Point, N. C. 28533  
(Casualty Assistance Officer)

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - MIA

b7c

Commanding Officer  
MCAS, New River  
Jacksonville, N. C. 28540  
(Casualty Assistance Officer)

Continued:

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - POW

Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] POW

67C EO 12812-2  
Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Supply Center  
Albany, Georgia 31704  
(Casualty Assistance Officer)

67C  
Inspector-Instructor  
Naval and Marine Corps Reserve  
Training Center  
7600 East Jefferson Avenue  
Detroit, Mich. 48214

All 67c PER EO 12812-2

AX 100-373

62c

Lt. Col. [REDACTED] through Mr. [REDACTED] U. S. Army Military Personnel, Missing & Captured Persons Unit, Casualty Division, located in Room GB-175, Forrestal Building, Washington, D. C., advised on 9/9/70, that there are no known next of kin of the 58 known Army POW's who might have been in contact with any members of COLIFAM. They explained that this was because all known Army POW's are being held in South Vietnam and are not, therefore, prisoners of the North Vietnamese but are captives of the Viet Cong which COLIFAM has not represented. The results of contact with Commander ROBERT S. BOROUGHS, U. S. Navy, Hoffman Building in Alexandria, Virginia, concerning Navy next of kin, were set forth in Alexandria airtel to Bureau dated 7/6/70.

Reference is made to Anchorage letter to Bureau, 7/20/70, and San Antonio letter to Bureau, 8/27/70, pertaining to the list of names of Air Force next of kin. Captain WALTER J. ELLIS, U. S. Navy, aide to Brigadier General DANIEL "CHAPPIE" JAMES, JR., U. S. Air Force Public Affairs Office, located in Room 2E800, in the Pentagon Building, Arlington, Virginia, advised that this office does not maintain a list of names of next of kin who have had personal contact with members of COLIFAM. He referred investigating Agent to the 1127th Field Activities Group at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Sergeant [REDACTED] advised that his office would prepare a list of the next of kin of Air Force personnel who have had contact with COLIFAM after he could confer with Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Sergeant [REDACTED] advised that of the 335 Air Force personnel who are POW's and MIA's, there has never been a list compiled of their next of kin who have had personal contact with members of COLIFAM.

In view of the specific Bureau instructions in this matter, Alexandria does not contemplate interviewing those next of kin as set out in San Antonio letter to Bureau 8/27/70. When the list of Air Force next of kin



who have had contact with COLIFAM is obtained, it will be forwarded to the Bureau and OO for their consideration is setting forth additional leads which are germane to this matter.

LEADSALEXANDRIAAT [REDACTED] VIRGINIA b2c

Will locate and interview Mrs. [REDACTED], wife of [REDACTED] (MIA), whose home phone is [REDACTED] and whose office phone is [REDACTED] but who has been unavailable to date.

AT FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA b2c

Will recontact USAF 1127th Field Activities Group through Sgt. [REDACTED] to obtain amended list of USAF next of kin who have had contact with COLIFAM members.

Will attempt to locate 4/20/70, letter from CORA WEISS to Mrs. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Minneapolis, Minn., which enclosed two letter forms to be utilized when corresponding with her captive husband, USAF [REDACTED] (Original letters were forwarded by [REDACTED] to USAF Intelligence, Washington, D. C.) (Lead contained in Minneapolis airtel to Bureau and WFO, 7/8/70.) b2c

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL b7c PER EO 12812-2

REPORTING OFFICE COLUMBIA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE SEP 22 1970	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 7/10/70 - 9/3/70
TITLE OF CASE COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE IS - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT	EX-117

References: New York airtel to Bureau, 6/9/70.  
Report of SA [REDACTED] 6/9/70, at San Diego.  
Columbia airtel to Bureau, 7/2/70.  
Columbia airtel to Bureau, 7/18/70.  
San Antonio letter to Bureau, 8/27/70.

- RUC -

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

Regarding the list of names set forth in San Antonio letter to Bureau, dated 8/27/70, the Columbia Division has interviewed only those relatives of actual prisoners of war. The relatives of those individuals listed as missing in action are not being interviewed, UACB. Leads were set forth in Columbia airtel to Bureau, dated 7/18/70, for the Charlotte Division to interview Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED].

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:  PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
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COPIES MADE:  
 8 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)  
 2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)  
 2 - Savannah (RM)  
 1 - Columbia (100-909)

1cc destroyed  
1cc 910 910

Deleted Copy Sent  
by Letter Dated 5/28/76  
Per FOIPA Request

12 SEP 24 1970

Dissemination Record of Attached Report					Notations  ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE
Agency	OSI, ACSI, SEC. SER., DIA, JPM, JSD				
Request Recd.					
Date Fwd.	10-1-70				
How Fwd.	5/15				
By	[REDACTED]				

10000120 1970

COVER PAGE

CO 100-909

LEADS

SAVANNAH DIVISION

EO 12812-2

AT [REDACTED] GEORGIA

b2c

b2c Will interview Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED]  
USAF, in accordance with instructions in referenced New York  
letter dated 6/9/70.

B\*  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*All b7c per EO 12812-2*

## Copy to:

Report of:

SA [REDACTED] *b7c*

Office:

COLUMBIA

Date:

SEP 22 1970

Field Office File #:

100-909

Bureau File #:

100-457899

Title:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;  
REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis:

The following wives of POW's in North Vietnam were interviewed:

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Wife of [REDACTED] *b7c*

Sumter, S. C.

Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*  
Wife of [REDACTED]

Sumter, S. C.

Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*  
Wife of [REDACTED]

Sumter, S. C.

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Wife of [REDACTED] *b7c*

Simpsonville, S. C. *b7c*

Also interviewed was Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*

[REDACTED] S. C., mother of [REDACTED] who is also a POW in North Vietnam. All of the above individuals have received *b7c*

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OTHERWISE

CO 100-909

correspondence from COLIFAM and, through the efforts of COLIFAM, have received one or more letters from their POW relatives. Photo copies of COLIFAM correspondence received from these individuals obtained and included in the report.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

All b7c b2 EO 12812-2 Date July 22, 1970

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [REDACTED] U. S. Air Force, who was captured in North Vietnam about 4 1/2 years ago. b7c

She has been in contact with the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). In December, 1969, her brother-in-law, [REDACTED] was living in San Francisco, California. He observed CORP WEISS on television at that time. WEISS, a member of COLIFAM, had just returned from North Vietnam and she displayed on television some cartoons which she stated had been drawn by [REDACTED] a prisoner in North Vietnam. [REDACTED] immediately contacted WEISS and received an appointment to see her at her motel in San Francisco. WEISS made a photocopy of the four cartoon drawings, and she turned over the originals to Mr. [REDACTED] who, in turn, sent them to Mrs. [REDACTED]. Mrs. [REDACTED] declined to release the cartoons, stating she desired to keep them in her possession. Mr. [REDACTED] is the brother of [REDACTED] and he currently resides in New York City where he is with [REDACTED] b7c

WEISS told [REDACTED] that the North Vietnamese had given her the cartoons with the request that she give them to Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c

Sometime during the latter part of December, 1969, after Christmas, Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted WEISS at her home in Syracuse, New York, and inquired whether she had seen [REDACTED] on the occasion of her visit to North Vietnam. WEISS replied that she had not seen [REDACTED] or any of the prisoners, but only North Vietnamese officials. WEISS then made several remarks about the war in South Vietnam which Mrs. [REDACTED] took to be pure propaganda. Mrs. [REDACTED] warned WEISS that she should not attempt in any way to publish the cartoons which had been drawn by her husband, or otherwise Mrs. [REDACTED] would see her. b7c

On 7/10/70 at [REDACTED] S. C. Columbia 100-909  
File # New York 100-168469

by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 7/16/70

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

Beginning in January, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] started to receive "propaganda" from COLIFAM through the mails. The first item she received was a letter dated January 20, 1970, from ROGER G. FREDRICKSON of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. b7c

She then received an information sheet concerning COLIFAM, dated January, 1970. MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

She also received a letter from MAGGIE GEDDES of COLIFAM dated January 27, 1970; and a letter from BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIFAM dated June 14, 1970.

Mrs. [REDACTED] made available the above items which she had received in the mail, and Xerox copies are attached to this interview form. She stated she had received a few more pieces of "propaganda" from COLIFAM through the mails; however, she has since thrown them away. b7c

In February, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] visited Mrs. [REDACTED] Sumter, S. C. Mrs. [REDACTED] is also the wife of a Prisoner of War (POW) being held by North Vietnam. They had read in the newspaper that STEWART MEACHAM of COLIFAM had recently brought back some letters from POWs. Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted MEACHAM in New York, and Mrs. [REDACTED] also spoke with him on this occasion. MEACHAM said that both Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] had letters coming from their husbands. b7c

CORA WEISS telephonically contacted Mrs. [REDACTED] in April, 1970, and requested that Mrs. [REDACTED] not sue her as she had not published the cartoons drawn by [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] WEISS also said she knew some pictures which had been painted by [REDACTED] were in the United States, and she wanted to know how Mrs. [REDACTED] obtained them. Although Mrs. [REDACTED] actually had the paintings, she denied to WEISS that she had them. Mrs. [REDACTED] actually has five photographic slides of the paintings which she received from Life Magazine. It was her understanding that the slides were made by one ROGER PIK in France; however, she had no knowledge how PIK came in contact with the paintings. WEISS then told Mrs. [REDACTED] she had been to the Life Magazine office in New York, and the magazine had photo slides of the paintings, and Mrs. [REDACTED] could obtain the slides from Life. b7c

67c

WEISS then asked Mrs. [REDACTED] if her son was going to be drafted. Mrs. [REDACTED] did not answer this question at first, and she asked WEISS if her, WEISS', son was going to be drafted. WEISS replied in the negative, stating that her son was only two years of age. Mrs. [REDACTED] then told WEISS that her son will serve his country in some capacity some day. WEISS replied that her son would do likewise. WEISS told Mrs. [REDACTED] the closest the North Vietnamese came to committing atrocities against the POWs was to slap them. WEISS said the North Vietnamese told her this, and she believed them. 67c

67c MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

Mrs. [REDACTED] read in the newspaper that Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM had returned to the United States in May, 1970, following a trip to North Vietnam. Sometime around the end of May, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted FERNANDEZ at COLIFAM headquarters in New York, and she asked him whether or not he had seen any of the POWs during his trip to North Vietnam. FERNANDEZ replied that he had not seen any POWs on the trip. He further told Mrs. [REDACTED] that he planned to return to North Vietnam, and if she had any letters for her husband, she could send them to him and he would take them to North Vietnam. FERNANDEZ also said that if Mrs. [REDACTED] did not want to send the letters through him, she could send them direct, through Moscow. He said that mail goes to Moscow via airliner, from Moscow to China by train, and from China to Hanoi by train. FERNANDEZ advised Mrs. [REDACTED] that he did not have any information concerning the POWs. He told Mrs. [REDACTED] that if ever he or COLIFAM could be of any assistance to her, she should contact them. 67c

Mrs. [REDACTED] has received a total of eight letters from her husband. Of these, seven letters and a Christmas card, came to her by way of COLIFAM. The first letter she received from her husband came to her direct, and it was mailed October 27, 1969. 67c

Mrs. [REDACTED] has sent only one letter to her husband through COLIFAM, and this was about one month ago. She has mailed all other letters direct to her husband in Hanoi. 67c

Mrs. [REDACTED] described MEACHAM and FERNANDEZ as very cordial, and WEISS as "clever". At no time did these individuals threaten, harass or cajole her in any way.

5



*All b7c PER EO 12812-2*

She knows of no activity on the part of COLIFAM in South Carolina. She knows of no servicemen formerly residing in South Carolina who were contacted by means of COLIFAM while they were prisoners of war.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that the following wives of POWs in North Vietnam have also been contacted by COLIFAM:

- (1) Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c* S. C.
- (2) Mrs. [REDACTED] S. C.
- (3) Mrs. [REDACTED]

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

Photographic copies of the correspondence received by Mrs. [REDACTED] from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., and COLIFAM, are attached hereto:  
*b7c*

AMERICAN FRIEND SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.

160 North Fifteenth Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Binh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing tradition of American solidarity with the people of North Vietnam. This is part of a larger rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

305 West 42nd Street New York N.Y. 10036

212-765-1498

January, 1970

## INFORMATION SHEET

Chairman:  
Dave Dellinger  
Chris White

### Background

Treasurer:  
Mr. Anne Bremer

Committee (in formation):  
Renee Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Golden  
\*Dave Halliwell  
Samuel Housh  
Paul Ben Salzman  
Edna Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
\*staff

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

### Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families in the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

NAME of serviceman  
serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots  
Captured in the U.S.A.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

It is hoped that the Vietnamese will be able to verify

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

#### Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other Southeast Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

#### Who We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-149

**CABLE ADDRESS:**

COLIAFAM

**Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

**Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee (in formation):**

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

January 27, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c EO 12812-2

We assume that by this time you have received the letter from North Vietnam which was forwarded to you by members of our Committee. We are enclosing an Information Sheet which explains the work of the Committee of Liaison.

The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners will be able to receive and send one letter a month. As noted in the Information Sheet, you may send letters directly to North Vietnam (note the mail address and route). If you would like us to forward them for you, please enclose but do not affix stamps as we will be sending them on in packets. We are also enclosing a letter form which you might wish to use, whether you send it directly or through us. Prisoners can also receive one package, not over six pounds in weight, every other month.

To insure the safe and rapid delivery of mail from prisoners, the North Vietnamese will send periodic packets of letters through our office. The letters will then be dispatched immediately to the families to whom they are addressed.

The only way to secure the eventual release of prisoners is through the decision by the United States to end the war. But in the meantime we are pleased to be able to assist in the communication between men and their families. We hope to forward letters on to you again soon.

Sincerely,

*Maggie Geddes*  
Maggie Geddes

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dollinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*

Barbara Webster

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

All b7c PER 50 12812-2

Date July 22, 1970

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [REDACTED] U. S. Air Force, who was captured in North Vietnam on or about [REDACTED] 1965. She heard nothing from her husband until February 24, 1970, when she received a letter and Christmas card from him. This mail was not sent to her through the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), but came direct to her through the international mails. b7c

Sometime in December, 1969, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from Mrs. [REDACTED] Sumter, South Carolina. Mrs. [REDACTED] is also the wife of a prisoner of war (POW) being held in North Vietnam. She informed Mrs. [REDACTED] that three women from the "Women Strike For Peace" were going to Hanoi, and they would carry with them a letter for [REDACTED] should Mrs. [REDACTED] decide to send one. b7c

Later in December, 1969, Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted ETHEL TAYLOR of "Women Strike For Peace" in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. TAYLOR is also a member of COLIFAM. Mrs. [REDACTED] asked TAYLOR to give her husband a message, and said tell him "hello" and "we are alright". Mrs. [REDACTED] also told TAYLOR she would like to send some salve to her husband. TAYLOR asked what kind of salve, and Mrs. [REDACTED] gave her this information. TAYLOR said she was one of the three women of "Women Strike For Peace" who were going to Hanoi, and she would go to a drug store and purchase the salve and take same to her husband. b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] read in a newspaper that the three women returned from Hanoi in January, 1970. Another one of the women who made the trip was CORA WEISS, also a member of COLIFAM. Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted ETHEL TAYLOR in Philadelphia and inquired whether she had seen [REDACTED] and if she had delivered the salve. TAYLOR replied in the negative, pointing out that she had become ill in Paris, France and was unable to continue on the trip to Hanoi. She said she sent the salve and Mrs. [REDACTED] message through the other women, however, b7c

On 7/11/70 at [REDACTED] S. C. b7c

File # Columbia 100-909  
New York 100-168469 b7c

by SA [REDACTED] b7c

Date dictated 7/17/70

ALL b7c PER EO 12812-2

b2c  
she did not know if same were delivered to [REDACTED] TAYLOR further told Mrs. [REDACTED] that they were going to form a committee to serve as a channel through which POWs and their families could write to each other. TAYLOR said she would get in touch with Mrs. [REDACTED] again at a later date.

b2c  
Later, in January, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from TAYLOR dated January 21, 1970, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] received another telephone call from Mrs. SANDY BAGLEY in December, 1969 and was informed by Mrs. BAGLEY that LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER and ROGER G. FREDRICKSON of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., were going to make a trip to Hanoi and were going to take some letters to the POWs. Mrs. [REDACTED] thereupon wrote a letter to her husband, sealed it, and placed it in an envelop addressed to the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia. At the same time, Mrs. [REDACTED] wrote a letter to the American Friends Service Committee pointing out that they should be helping the American POWs in North Vietnam rather than helping the North Vietnamese. In this letter, Mrs. [REDACTED] was generally critical of the activities of the American Friends Service Committee, Inc.

b7c  
In January, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from ROGER G. FREDRICKSON of the American Friends Service Committee, dated January 20, 1970, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

b2c  
During the first part of April, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] was on vacation at Daytona Beach, Fla., when she received a telephone call from an Air Force official at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. This official wanted to know whether or not Mrs. [REDACTED] had any objection to having her address furnished to CORA WEISS of COLIFAM. Mrs. [REDACTED] said she would have no objection to this.

b2c  
When she returned home on April 11, 1970, there was a letter in her mailbox from CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER of COLIFAM. Enclosed with this letter was an information sheet regarding COLIFAM. This letter, dated April 7, 1970, advised Mrs. [REDACTED] that COLIFAM had received official confirmation



All b7c PER ED 12812-2

b7c  
that her husband was one of the POWs being held by the North Vietnamese. It was also pointed out to Mrs. [REDACTED] that a letter from her husband was en route to her. Photographic copies of the letter from WEISS and DELLINGER and the information sheet on COLIFAM are attached hereto.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] never received the letter from her husband which was referred to in the letter from WEISS and DELLINGER.

b7c  
In May, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the office of STEWART MEACHAM of American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia. MEACHAM is also a member of COLIFAM. Mrs. [REDACTED] talked with MEACHAM's secretary in MEACHAM's absence. Mrs. [REDACTED] informed the secretary that she had not received her letter mentioned in the correspondence from WEISS and DELLINGER. The secretary replied that the packet of letters had not yet arrived, and sometimes the letters are slow in coming in.

b7c  
In May, 1970, correspondence came to Mrs. [REDACTED] from COLIFAM which also had the name of Mrs. [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] Glenview, Illinois, on the envelop. Mrs. [REDACTED] telephonically contacted Mrs. [REDACTED] and learned that she is the mother of [REDACTED] U. S. Navy, also a POW in North Vietnam. Mrs. [REDACTED] has since moved to [REDACTED] telephone # [REDACTED]

b7c  
On June 16, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a second letter from her husband, and this came to her by way of COLIFAM. In the same envelop, was a letter, dated June 14, 1970, from BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIFAM, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

b7c  
During the first part of June, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from [REDACTED] in which she was advised that KENNETH KIRKPATRICK of Seattle, Washington, and two professors were going to Hanoi, and [REDACTED] could send a letter to her husband through these individuals. [REDACTED] advised she had learned this information from STEWART MEACHAM. She said KIRKPATRICK is also connected with American Friends Service Committee. Mrs. [REDACTED] sent a letter for her

husband to Mr. KIRKPATRICK, however, she had no knowledge whether it was actually delivered. She has had no further contact with COLIFAM.

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that ETHEL TAYLOR was cordial in their telephone contacts, and at no time did she threaten, harass or cajole her in any way.

She knows of no activity on the part of COLIFAM in South Carolina. She knows of no servicemen formerly residing in South Carolina who were contacted by means of COLIFAM while they were prisoners of war.

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that the following wives of POWs in North Vietnam have also been contacted by COLIFAM:

- (1) Mrs. [REDACTED] S. C.
- (2) Mrs. [REDACTED]
- (3) Mrs. [REDACTED]

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

Attached hereto are photographic copies of the correspondence received by Mrs. [REDACTED] from COLIFAM and the American Friends Service Committee.

b2c

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TWL . SOUTH TWELFTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107  
Telephone: 561-2636

January 21, 1970

Dear *Mrs* [REDACTED]

*674  
EO 12812-2*

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

*Ethel Taylor*

Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way  
Phila., Pa., 19151  
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.

*16*

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.



1631 North Philadelphia Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
Phone 215-563-3372

HENRY BLERITS

HENRY J. CADDURY

BRONSON P. CLARK

Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

RF/h

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

*All WLC PER EO 12812-2*

(212) 765-1490

April 7, 1970

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Modeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kelish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ernel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c*

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have

heard that [REDACTED] *b7c* is on this list. The North Vietnamese have now confirmed through the Committee of Liaison a total of 335 men being held.

This notification also means that a letter is en route from him. The enclosed release explains how mail is forwarded via our office. Because mail from Hanoi is very slow we cannot be sure when the letter will come, but we will forward it as soon as it arrives here.

We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have any questions.

At the same time, we are continuing to work towards the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia so that soon all families, American and Vietnamese, can be united again.

Sincerely,

*Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger*  
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.

*18*

*b7c*  
[REDACTED]



created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. It is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Vietnam (from both the North and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) and Americans who oppose the war. On three separate occasions representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi and have returned with released servicemen. On one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three American soldiers who were released by the National Liberation Front. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters to captured servicemen at the request of their families and they have brought back letters when they have returned to the United States. On several occasions such visitors from the peace movement have met with captured pilots in Hanoi.

#### The Committee

The Committee of Liaison believes that the safe return of U.S. servicemen captured in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the United States maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to completely withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will also continue our efforts aimed at the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Women Against Daddy Warbucks, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Strike for Peace.

The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

## CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

## Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger

Core Weiss

## Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

## Committee:

Richard J. Barnett

Rennie Davis

Madeline Duckles

Prof. Richard Falk

Rev. Richard Fernandez

Norman Fruchter

\*Maggie Geddes

Steve Halliwell

Prof. Donald Kalish

Stewart Meacham

Prof. Bea Seitzman

Prof. Franz Schurmann

Ethel Taylor

\*Barbara Webster

Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*

Barbara Webster



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

1

Date August 13, 1970

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] furnished the following information:

She is the wife of [REDACTED] b7c  
United States Air Force, who is a prisoner of war (POW) in North Vietnam. Her husband was reported as missing in action in July, 1966; however, his status was officially changed by the Air Force in June, 1969, as [REDACTED] b7c  
a released POW, reported that he was 95% sure he had seen [REDACTED] at a POW camp in North Vietnam.

On December 3, 1969, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a memo- b7c  
randum from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, advising her that the American Friends Service Committee, Inc. (AFSC) could possibly get letters through to POWs in North Vietnam. Mrs. [REDACTED] then wrote a letter to her husband and sent it to the AFSC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She received a letter, dated December 15, 1969, from LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER of AFSC, acknowledging receipt of her letter. A photographic copy of the letter from SCHNEIDER is attached hereto.

In January, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a letter from ROGER G. FREDRICKSON of AFSC, dated January 20, 1970, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto. This letter makes reference to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM).

Mrs. [REDACTED] received her first letter from her husband on March 24, 1970. This letter was postmarked at Hanoi, and apparently came directly to her through the mails. This was her first real proof that her husband was alive.

During the latter part of March or first part of April, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from someone in the Casualty Division of the Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, possibly Colonel GRATCH. The caller informed Mrs. [REDACTED] that CORA WEISS of COLIFAM had requested her address. Mrs. [REDACTED] told the person calling that she had no objection to having her address furnished to WEISS.

On 8/4/70 at [REDACTED] S. C. File # COLUMBIA 100-909  
NEW YORK 100-168469  
by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 8/7/70

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

CO 100-909

2

b2c  
Shortly after the call from Randolph AFB, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a telephone call from some unknown reporter with "The State" newspaper, Columbia, South Carolina. The reporter advised Mrs. [REDACTED] that CORA WEISS had released a list of names of POWS in North Vietnam and the name of [REDACTED] was on the list. b7c

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] next received a letter dated April 7, 1970, from CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER of COLIFAM. Enclosed with this letter was an information sheet concerning COLIFAM. Photographic copies of the letter and information sheet are attached hereto.

She next received a letter dated May 4, 1970, from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ of COLIFAM, a photographic copy of which is attached hereto.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] last heard from COLIFAM when she received a letter dated June 14, 1970, signed by BARBARA WEBSTER, which enclosed a letter from [REDACTED]. A photographic copy of the letter from WEBSTER is attached hereto. This was the last letter Mrs. MEANS has received from her husband. After reading the letter from her husband, she was of the belief he had not received any of her letters. b7c

In June, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] received a notice from Randolph AFB advising that a Mr. KIRKPATRICK or KILPATRICK was going to North Vietnam and he would be taking with him letters for the POWS. Mrs. [REDACTED] wrote a letter to her husband and sent it to the above individual at Seattle, Washington. b7c

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] has not received any telephone calls or personal contacts with persons connected with COLIFAM. She knows of no activity on the part of COLIFAM in South Carolina. She knows of no servicemen formerly residing in South Carolina who were contacted by means of COLIFAM while they were prisoners of war.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that the following wives of POWS in North Vietnam have also been contacted by COLIFAM: b7c

(1) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] South Carolina. (Now staying with relatives in [REDACTED])

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

CO 100-909

3

b2c

(2) Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] South Carolina.

(3) Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] South Carolina.

b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

Attached hereto are photographic copies of the correspondence received by [REDACTED] from COLIFAM and the AFSC:

b2c

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.



160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS

HENRY J. CADBURY

BRONSON P. CLARK  
*Executive Secretary*

December 15, 1969

Dear Friend,

This is but a brief note to acknowledge receipt of your letter addressed to your family member who is being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

My current plans call for me to arrive in North Vietnam on or about 26 December at which point I hope to be able to turn your letter along with a large number of other letters from the immediate families of men being held to the appropriate authorities of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, along with my request that the letters be delivered to the individual prisoners.

After my return to the United States I will write to you again to let you know whether it was possible to deliver the letters.

Most sincerely yours,

Louis W. Schneider  
Associate Executive Secretary

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE INC.



160 North Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
Phone 215-563-9372

HENRY BEERITS  
Chairman

HENRY J. CADBURY  
Honorary Chairman

BRONSON P. CLARK  
Executive Secretary

January 20, 1970

Dear Friend,

I am happy to report that during my visit to North Vietnam between December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970, I was able to deliver to the representatives of the Vietmy (Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People) about 500 letters that had been forwarded on to me by you and other family members of prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

Immediately prior to my departure from North Vietnam I was given 69 letters from 64 American prisoners of war, and in keeping with the North Vietnamese request these letters have been given to the

Committee of Liaison  
with Families of Service  
men detained in North  
Vietnam  
365 W. 42nd Street  
New York, New York

for transmittal to the individual addressees. We at the American Friends Service Committee are pleased to have had a part in opening a channel for communication between the prisoners and their families and hope that this will continue.

You may be interested to know that during my visit to North Vietnam I was able to deliver a second contribution of open heart surgical equipment to the Benh Vien Viet-Duc Hospital in Hanoi in keeping with a long-standing Quaker concern for civilian sufferers on both sides of a war.

Following my departure from North Vietnam I traveled on to Quang Ngai in South Vietnam to visit the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) rehabilitation project for civilian casualties.

I have asked my colleagues in Philadelphia to mail this letter to you prior to my return to the United States, so that you might know more promptly that your letter has safely arrived in Hanoi and was given to the appropriate North Vietnamese authorities with my specific request that it be delivered to the individual addressee.

Most sincerely yours,

for: Louis W. Schneider  
Roger G. Fredrickson

56

RF/h

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

April 7, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c 6012812-2

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have

heard that [REDACTED] b2c is on this list. The North Vietnamese have now confirmed through the Committee of Liaison a total of 335 men being held.

This notification also means that a letter is en route from him. The enclosed release explains how mail is forwarded via our office. Because mail from Hanoi is very slow we cannot be sure when the letter will come, but we will forward it as soon as it arrives here.

We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have any questions.

At the same time, we are continuing to work towards the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia so that soon all families, American and Vietnamese, can be united again.

Sincerely,

*Francis* Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

P.S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.

57

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## *with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

### INFORMATION SHEET

Co-chairmen:  
Dove Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Bonnie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

### Functions of the Committee

The Committee of Liaison seeks to facilitate communication between servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families in the United States. The Committee receives letters from servicemen and forwards them to the families through the domestic mails. It also forwards letters to North Vietnam at the request of families. Families are, of course, still free to send letters directly but should not the correct address for both letters and packages:

Name of serviceman, serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured  
in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Captured servicemen may receive one letter a month and one package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. The Committee does not forward packages. It is suggested that letters sent to the Committee for forwarding be sealed and that stamps be enclosed (not affixed) as letters are forwarded in packets.

The Committee is only able to be of help with respect to men who have been shot down over North Vietnam.

The Committee also is able to request information regarding the status of men thought to have been shot down over North Vietnam and captured there. For such inquiries the Committee needs to have the individual's service number, and any available information as to when and where he was shot down. With respect to such requests the Committee would expect to receive a letter to his family if the individual is being held in North Vietnam. If the individual is known to be dead or if the North Vietnamese have no information regarding him, the Committee expects to receive that word to the extent possible. In any case the Committee will communicate with the family concerned as soon as it receives word. In this way we expect that, as Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, has said, gradually all families of servicemen held in North Vietnam will hear from their relatives.

### Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative

created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. It is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Vietnam (from both the North and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) and Americans who oppose the war. On three separate occasions representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi and have returned with released servicemen. On one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three American soldiers who were released by the National Liberation Front. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters to captured servicemen at the request of their families and they have brought back letters when they have returned to the United States. On several occasions such visitors from the peace movement have met with captured pilots in Hanoi.

#### The Committee

The Committee of Liaison believes that the safe return of U.S. servicemen captured in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the United States maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to completely withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will also continue our efforts aimed at the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Women Against Daddy Warbucks, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Strike for Peace.

The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

EO 12812-2  
Received by [redacted] 7/10/70  
[redacted] b2c  
[redacted] b2c  
[redacted]



# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez

To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam

Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

# COMMITTEE O. LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All 67c PER EO 12812-2

1

August 20, 1970

Date

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she is the wife of [REDACTED] U. S. Air Force (USAF), serial [REDACTED] who is a career officer in the USAF. She said her husband is a pilot, was shot down over North Vietnam on [REDACTED] 1967, and was first officially classified as a Prisoner of War (POW) on [REDACTED] 1969.

Mrs. [REDACTED] said she is acquainted with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIAFAM) but has not corresponded with this Committee and has had no personal contact with its members. She pointed out that she does not approve of this Committee or its activities because, in her opinion, COLIAFAM is working against the best interest of the United States. She said she felt that all members of COLIAFAM should be hung because of their Un-American activities. However, she noted that she has received three letters from her husband through this Committee and, for this reason, she will not publicly denounce the Committee or its activities as she fears that for her to do so would lessen her chances of getting additional letters from her POW husband. She said it seems that COLIAFAM is the only organization through which she can get news of letters from her husband and she does not want to do anything that would jeopardize her chances of hearing from her husband.

Mrs. [REDACTED] noted that she heard nothing from or regarding her husband from the date he was shot down [REDACTED] 1967) until April 13, 1970. However, on April 4, 1970, an official of the USAF advised her that COLIAFAM had a list of POWs and her husband's name was on the list. She was informed that the Committee wanted to contact her and the USAF requested permission to release her address to the Committee. She said she gave her approval for the furnishing of her home address to the Committee after the consent of the USAF was received for such action.

She stated on April 7, 1970, [REDACTED] News Reporter for WFBC-TV, Greenville, South Carolina, telephoned her and advised her that CORA WEISS, Co-Chairman of COLIAFAM, had made a press release in New York, New York, to the Associated Press wire service indicating that [REDACTED]

On 8/7/70 at [REDACTED] S. C. File # Columbia 100-909

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/13/70

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

CO 100-901

2

b7c  
[redacted] from [redacted] S. C., whose wife Mrs. [redacted] resides at [redacted] S. C., had written to his wife and the letter had been forwarded on to her. He noted that the names of several other POWs and their wives were also released, including the following:

b7c  
Mrs. [redacted] S. C.  
Mrs. [redacted] North Carolina  
Mrs. [redacted] N. C.

b7c  
Mrs. [redacted] said she noted that all of the names released were of individuals with addresses in the same general area of the United States. She said she wondered at the time why all the individuals involved were from the same area. She noted that none of these people had heard from their husbands prior to this time and the press release was publicized throughout the United States.

b7c  
Mrs. [redacted] said she heard nothing further until April 10, 1970, when she received a letter from COLIAFAM. The letter, dated April 7, 1970, and signed by both CORA WEISS and DAVE DELLINGER, Co-Chairmen of COLIAFAM, was typed on the Committee's letterhead stationery, reflecting the organization's address as 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y. It stated that the Committee had recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam.

b7c  
The writers told Mrs. [redacted] that, by then, she should have heard that [redacted] is on this list and noted that the North Vietnamese had confirmed through the Committee of Liaison a total of 335 men being held.

The letter further noted that this notification also meant that a letter was en route from her husband. However, the letter explained that, because mail from Hanoi is very slow, they could not be sure when the letter would arrive. She was assured that the Committee would forward the letter as soon as it arrived at the COLIAFAM office.

The letter further advised as follows:

"We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have any questions."

CO 100-909

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"At the same time, we are continuing to work towards the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U. S. troops from Southeast Asia so that soon all families, American and Vietnamese, can be united again."

The writers apologized for the mimeographed letter but indicated it was necessary because "there are many families to reach at the same time".

*hi CO 12812-2*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said the following "INFORMANT SHEET" which sets out information regarding the background and functions of COLIAFAM was sent to her as an enclosure to the April 7, 1970 letter:

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## **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

### **with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

#### **CABLE ADDRESS:**

COLIAFAM

#### **INFORMATION SHEET**

##### **Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger

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##### **Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

##### **Committee (in formation):**

Rennie Davis

Rev. Richard Fernandez

\*Maggie Geddes

\*Steve Holliswell

Stewart Meacham

Prof. Bea Seitzman

Ethel Taylor

\*Barbara Webster

\*Trudi Young

#### **Functions of the Committee**

The Committee of Liaison seeks to facilitate communication between servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families in the United States. The Committee receives letters from servicemen and forwards them to the families through the domestic mails. It also forwards letters to North Vietnam at the request of families. Families are, of course, still free to send letters directly but should not the correct address for both letters and packages:

Name of serviceman, serial number

Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured

in the D.R.V.

Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

##### **\*staff**

Captured servicemen may receive one letter a month and one package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. The Committee does not forward packages. It is suggested that letters sent to the Committee for forwarding be sealed and that stamps be enclosed (not affixed) as letters are forwarded in packets.

The Committee is only able to be of help with respect to men who have been shot down over North Vietnam.

The Committee also is able to request information regarding the status of men thought to have been shot down over North Vietnam and captured there. For such inquiries the Committee needs to have the individual's service number, and any available information as to when and where he was shot down. With respect to such requests the Committee would expect to receive a letter to his family if the individual is being held in North Vietnam. If the individual is known to be dead or if the North Vietnamese have no information regarding him, the Committee expects to receive that word to the extent possible. In any case the Committee will communicate with the family concerned as soon as it receives word. In this way we expect that, as Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, has said, gradually all families of servicemen held in North Vietnam will hear from their relatives

#### **Background**

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative

created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. It is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Vietnam (from both the North and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) and Americans who oppose the war. On three separate occasions representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi and have returned with released servicemen. On one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three American soldiers who were released by the National Liberation Front. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters to captured servicemen at the request of their families and they have brought back letters when they have returned to the United States. On several occasions such visitors from the peace movement have met with captured pilots in Hanoi.

#### The Committee

The Committee of Liaison believes that the safe return of U.S. servicemen, captured in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the United States maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to completely withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will also continue our efforts aimed at the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Women Against Daddy Warbucks, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Strike for Peace.

The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.



All b7c PER EO 12812-2

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] pointed out that the organization claimed in the aforementioned "INFORMATION SHEET" that it "is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam," but she noted that members of COLIAFAM were connected with several anti-war and anti-Vietnam organizations.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that, on April 13, 1970, she received a call from the Postmaster at the Simpsonville Post Office who advised her that a Registered Letter had arrived for her. She said she went to the Post Office and picked up a 5" x 7" brown envelope which was postmarked New York, N. Y., on April 9, 1970. The envelope was addressed to her, using the address given by her POW husband instead of the address she had furnished to the Committee earlier. She said the envelope reflected the return address of COLIAFAM in New York, N. Y., on the front but had the address "P. O. Box 363, Annandale, Va." handwritten on the back.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said the envelope contained a letter and a card written to her by her husband. She indicated that the letters contained news of a personal nature and made no mention of COLIAFAM. They had been written by her husband on December 13, 1969.

Also enclosed in the envelope was a letter from COLIAFAM, dated April 8, 1970, and signed by STEVEN HALLIWELL, COLIAFAM member, and BARBARA WEBSTER, COLIAFAM staff member. It noted that the letter had been received from North Vietnam that day and that over 400 letters were en route from servicemen being held in North Vietnam. It pointed out that Mrs. [REDACTED] letter was one of 80 received in the first packet to arrive out of a total of five packets the Committee was expecting.

b7c  
The Committee also enclosed some letter forms which the North Vietnamese had suggested relatives use when writing to servicemen in North Vietnam. However, Mrs. [REDACTED] said she did not use these forms because they required that letters written on the forms be sent to the POW "VIA MOSCOW, USSR (Camp of Detention for U. S. pilots captured in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)".

All b7c b2 EO 12812-2

The letter was closed with an expression of "hopes for an early decision by the United States to withdraw from Vietnam."

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she later received a letter from Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, COLIAFAM member, which was dated May 4, 1970, and indicated he returned on April 20, 1970, from a three week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He indicated he had spoken with North Vietnamese officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families and set out instructions to be followed by relatives writing to the American POWs. He also indicated he had visited with three captured U. S. pilots and found them in good health.

FERNANDEZ stated in this letter that the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People is COLIAFAM's contact in North Vietnam and noted that, since December, over 800 letters had been sent from Hanoi through COLIAFAM.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she received a second letter from her husband through COLIAFAM on May 15, 1970. The letter had been written by her husband on January 17, 1970, and contained statements of a personal nature. She noted that her husband seemed to be depressed when this letter was written and his handwriting was shaky. She said it appeared he had written the letter hurriedly.

A letter from BARBARA WEBSTER, COLIAFAM staff member, dated May 13, 1970, was enclosed with the letter and noted that the Committee had received two packages (156 letters) of letters from prisoners held in North Vietnam. WEBSTER pointed out that, although the packages were mailed a month apart, they arrived on the same day.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she received a third letter through COLIAFAM on June 29, 1970, six weeks after the letter was written on May 19, 1970. She said her husband was in very good spirit when he wrote this letter and she strongly suspected he had received a package or letter from her just before writing.

This letter was accompanied with a cover letter from BARBARA WEBSTER of COLIAFAM which was dated June 26, 1970.

All 67C PER 50 128722

CO 100-909

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67C  
WEBSTER noted that the [REDACTED] letter, along with 185 others, was brought back to the United States by a group of anti-war people who had just returned from a visit to North Vietnam. She noted that this brought to 1,119 the total of letters which the Committee had forwarded on to families since December, 1969.

67C  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she has had no contact with any member of COLIAFAM and has not corresponded with the organization. She noted that her only association with COLIAFAM is the receipt of letters from her husband which are forwarded to her by this Committee. She said she has not and will not contact any anti-war group, including COLIAFAM, and will not talk with any of these people if they contact her. She noted that [REDACTED] S. C., is the only wife of a POW who has personally contacted COLIAFAM. She said [REDACTED] has talked on the telephone with STEVE HALLIWELL and has corresponded back and forth with the Committee. She said she believes [REDACTED] has received correspondence from Chicago, Illinois and New York, N. Y. 67C

67C  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she definitely would not contact or correspond with COLIAFAM and noted that her husband has given no indication he was ever contacted by the Committee. However, she said she believes some of the relatives of POWs from the South Carolina area have written letters to their husbands and sent them to the Committee for forwarding. No member of COLIAFAM has contacted any of these relatives at their South Carolina residences and, except for [REDACTED] she knows of no personal contact between members of COLIAFAM and families of POWs detained in North Vietnam. 67C

67C  
Mrs. [REDACTED] said she has never been harassed, coajoled or otherwise bothered by anyone connected with COLIAFAM. However, she considered the statement that only letters sent through the Committee would reach their husbands as a veiled threat and a form of pressure.

She said she has received only her husband's letters through COLIAFAM and has neither requested nor received anything else.

CO 100-909

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She noted that the Committee apparently took her name and address from her husband's letters inasmuch as this is the address used in press releases and correspondence concerning her husband. She said she believed this is true regarding other wives of POWs contacted by the Committee.

She named the following wives of POWs who have been contacted by COLIAFAM:

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Mrs. [REDACTED]

S. C.  
S. C.  
S. C.

S. C.

EO 12812-2

She noted also that the family of [REDACTED], (U. S. Navy) of Anderson, S. C., had also been contacted by COLIAFAM.

In conclusion, Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed later as she has no use for COLIAFAM and similar organizations. She noted, however, that she would testify only if the USAF granted approval for such testimony due to the sensitive area in which her husband was engaged while flying for the USAF before his capture. She again stated her dislike for the necessity of dealing with people such as those making up the membership of COLIAFAM and expressed her belief that their activities are harmful to the interest of the United States. However, she said she will continue to accept letters passed through them inasmuch as this seems to be the only way she can get word from her husband.

She stated that, if she has further contact with any member of COLIAFAM, she will immediately notify the FBI and the USAF.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c per EO 12812-2

8/18/70

1

Date

MRS. [REDACTED] b7c  
 advised that her son, [REDACTED] was stationed aboard the [REDACTED] where he was flying as an air observer on Phantom Jet. She advised her son was apparently shot down on [REDACTED] 1968, off the coast of North Vietnam and was thereafter captured by North Vietnamese officials and is presently a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

MRS. [REDACTED] b7c stated she received one letter from her son, sent by normal mail, which was written on October 12, 1969, and arrived at the residence on December 22, 1969, in Anderson, South Carolina. MRS. [REDACTED] stated she had received a second letter from her son, received in U. S. through the efforts of Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam which letter was dated April 7, 1970. MRS. [REDACTED] b7c stated that she periodically receives telephone calls from an officer of the U. S. Navy at the Greenville, S. C. Office of the U. S. Naval Reserves, notifying her that certain people or groups are leaving for Hanoi and that if she has any mail to be sent and delivered to her son, a prisoner of war, it should be forwarded to that person or group leaving for Hanoi.

MRS. [REDACTED] b7c stated that her first contact with a group taking mail to and returning mail from her son was through the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 160 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She has received letters from this organization dated July 23, 1969, September 18, 1969, October 31, 1969, these three letters having been sent to her by JOSEPH W. ELDER, a member of this committee. She advised she also received letters from this group dated December 6, 1969, December 24, 1969, which letter was sent in the name of Louis Schneider. The last letter she received from the American Friends Service Committee, Inc. was dated February 2, 1970, and was signed by one ROGER G. FREDERICKSON. MRS. [REDACTED] b7c made available a copy of this letter which is a form letter telling her that Louis W. Schneider had made a trip to North Vietnam between the dates of December 26, 1969, and January 9, 1970.

On 8/10/70 at [REDACTED] S. C. Columbia 100-909

by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 8/11/70

at which time he returned to the United States with 69 letters from 64 American Prisoners of War which letters were given to the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 10036, for transmittal to the individual persons to which they were addressed in the United States. She advised this was her first contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

*b7c EO 12812-2*

MRS. [REDACTED] also made available a copy of the lecture by Dr. Joseph Elder on November 12, 1969, at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota, where Dr. Elder, who is a professor of Sociology and Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, spoke concerning his trips to Hanoi, and the contacts he had made with North Vietnamese officials concerning Americans held as Prisoners of War by North Vietnam.

NOTES OF DR. JOSEPH ELDER'S MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12, 1969 AT HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

On the evening of November 12, 1969, Dr. Joseph Elder spoke to some of the families of men missing in action and prisoner of war in Southeast Asia at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Elder is a professor of Sociology and Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin. He is a Quaker and a pacifist and under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee he was invited to travel to Hanoi twice, first to discuss civilian needs with the North Vietnamese, the second time to deliver a humanitarian gift of heart surgical equipment requested by the North Vietnamese. The South Vietnamese have received such medical gifts in the past, as well as a great deal of help with artificial limbs at the Quaker prosthetics training center in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam.

In September, just before his last trip to Hanoi in October, two wives of pilots missing in action and prisoner of war, traveled to Madison, Wisconsin to meet Dr. Elder and make a formal (personal) request for his help in getting a list of prisoners from the North Vietnamese and give to him letters for their husbands for attempted delivery.

After his return from Hanoi, the two wives, Mrs. Richard Walsh and Mrs. David Winn, spoke with Dr. Elder and invited him to speak informally to a group of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. He very generously and kindly accepted the invitation to tell us about his trips to North Vietnam. The following notes were taken during his talk.

The first trip into Hanoi took place June 10-17, 1969. Upon his arrival, the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with American People (Vietnam Committee) asked Dr. Elder what would be some of the things he would like to do while in Hanoi. He then suggested a priority agenda. The first three items on the agenda dealt with discussion of civilian needs in North Vietnam and other AFSC concerns. The fourth point dealt with U.S. prisoners of war in North Vietnam. (It should be noted from a historical point of interest that the Quakers have shown concern for prisoners for 300 years.)

A M. Houang Bac was the major political officer that Dr. Elder spoke with on June 10th. Dr. Elder asked M. Bac if he might visit a POW camp, talk with any POW's, or take any POW mail back to the U.S. He also asked if he could obtain a list of prisoners in order to notify their relatives. On June 17th, M. Bac replied that he or his branch of government did not have access to military authorities and that "many prisoners are a long way from Hanoi." M. Bac further stated that it would take six or seven weeks to prepare a list of prisoners and perhaps when Dr. Elder returned to Hanoi a list could then be made available. Dr. Elder said that he had not initially suggested that they offer to have the list ready on his return trip, but that M. Bac himself suggested this, thereby indicating a positive response.

Following the visit to North Vietnam, and receiving a request list of

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open-heart surgical equipment, Dr. Elder flew to South Vietnam to visit the Quaker project in Quang Ngai. In Saigon, Dr. Elder had an interview with Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.

He returned to Washington in July and he and four other spokesmen for AFSC met with Henry Kissinger to discuss the war as well as to relay events of his trip. As a follow-up to his conversation with M. Bac, Dr. Elder wrote a letter to Hanoi about his next visit to Hanoi in which he stated that he would like item three on his priority list to deal with the prisoners of war. He also mentioned in this letter that the Quakers in South Vietnam had visited and provided comfort to a group of North Vietnamese fishermen who were POW's in South Vietnam. He stressed humane treatment for all sides.

Dr. Elder reached Hanoi on his second visit, October 10th, and remained there until the 17th. While in Hanoi to deliver the heart surgical equipment, Dr. Elder made four requests to see some prisoners or failing this, to receive mail from them, or to receive a list of the men. The first request was on October 10th with a "lower echelon" committee of North Vietnamese. The next morning there was a meeting with a higher series of officials, and Dr. Elder presented the same request relating to the prisoners. Dr. Elder stated that if the North Vietnamese did not want to deal with the International Red Cross, the American Friends Service Committee or the Quakers, with a history of 300 years of pacifism, could be the organization to deal with the lists of prisoners. Dr. Elder said that in about 1965 the North Vietnamese had asked the Swiss or the International Committee of the Red Cross to denounce the U.S. as the aggressors. But the Swiss refused saying that their function was to help, not, condemn. Since then, the North Vietnamese have not discussed prisoners with the ICRC. Dr. Elder said further that the Quakers meet the need to act as a go between in the prisoner situation because of their history of pacifism and also because the American Friends Service Committee has been on record against the war in Southeast Asia for a long time.

On Sunday, October 12th, Dr. Elder turned over the POW mail he had brought from the States. He had already sorted the 250 letters and three packages alphabetically. He handed them to M. Toan. He then went on a tour of Thanh Hoa Province, about 5 hours south of Hanoi in connection with stories he is writing for magazines. When he returned to Hanoi, he saw M. Toan once again and inquired about the packet of letters. M. Toan said they had been given to prison camp authorities.

On Thursday, October 16th, the POW issue was raised a third time. This time the North Vietnamese gave a lecture on their prisoner policy. Among prisoners they distinguish between "aggressors" and "victims of aggression." The pilots are defined as "aggressors" because they are volunteers and officers (not draftees), and they were engaged in attacks on North Vietnamese civilians when they were shot down (attacks contrary to principles enunciated at the Nuremberg trials). The North Vietnamese define themselves as "revolutionary humanitarians; they claim to police themselves and give the POW's adequate medical care and

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dict. They see no reason to have an intermediary. Pilots get twice as much rice, fish and vegetables, as the typical North Vietnamese. They have newspapers in camp and some reading matter. Then Dr. Elder said his "wrist was slapped", when they said "your government is using the families of the missing men and POW's for propaganda purposes." Then Dr. Elder made this point, that "the release of a prisoner list would end the propaganda." Dr. Elder told them that their policy of refusing to release names hurt the "victims of aggression," i.e., the families of the men at home. The men themselves know that they were alive, but the families at home did not know, and were suffering unnecessarily.

At a meeting with the Foreign Minister, Nguyen duy Trinh, "I would like to ask a question of you, but I do not want an answer now." Dr. Elder then made the same points he had made the day before with the Vietnam Committee. He concluded by asking, "Will you change your policy regarding releasing the names of U. S. prisoners?" With that Dr. Elder changed the subject.

Five days later, Dr. Elder was back in Washington talking with Frank Sieverts in the State Department. Mr. Sieverts said that over 4 - 5 years, the U.S. ex-POW, who have come back from Hanoi have had different experiences ranging from quite adequate to quite inadequate. Some reported torture. Then Dr. Elder said that he had spoken with a North Vietnamese doctor, who had given physical checkups to two pilots captured in Nam Ha Province. Dr. Elder said that, to the extent he accomplished anything on the POW issue, it was to place pressure on the North Vietnamese to release a list of the men to some anti-war group. Just a short time after Dr. Elder had returned, William Kunstler, the new mob lawyer, left for Paris, so perhaps the North Vietnamese were going to release a list to Kunstler. Dr. Elder felt that mail from prisoners families is getting into Hanoi, but very little is getting out.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of questions and answers.

Q. Again, why cannot our government offer ransom for the prisoners?

A. When a Stockholm Conference on Reconstruction sends representatives in December to Hanoi, perhaps some of the member neutral nations can press for a list of POW's then. The American Friends Service Committee delegate to this conference is Mr. Lou Schneider, American Friends Service Committee Inc., 160 N. 15th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102. Mr. Tom Swain of St. Paul suggests that we contact him and make this request. (Asking for a set of letters of opinion from other member nations to Hanoi for refusing to give a list of men they are holding.) Dr. Elder points out that the North Vietnamese administration is bureaucratic and pursues details, so they must keep an accurate listing and accounting of the men they are holding. Dr. Elder felt that one of the most important men he spoke with while there, was Nguyen Duy Trinh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, of the Dem. Republic of Vietnam.

Q. How do they react to the moratorium activities in this country?

A. They are "pleased and interested" but they are not "overwhelmed with

gratitude." They feel they can "go it alone", as far as the war is concerned. Dr. Elder said that they did send a message to participants in the moratorium thanking them for their support.

Q. Do the North Vietnamese talk about their troops in Laos"

A. They talk about Laos in their news broadcasts frequently. They call their military forces, the "Peoples Liberation Army." So among themselves, they do admit to being in Laos and South Vietnam. Marge Nelson, a Quaker doctor, was captured in Hue in the 1968 Tet offensive and held prisoner by the North Vietnamese. After about 40 days they released her. Marge Nelson had given Joe Elder some photographs of herself to be given in gratitude to the wife of one North Vietnamese and the sister of another North Vietnamese who had been particularly kind to her, while she was their prisoner. It was a slightly embarrassing moment when Dr. Elder gave the North Vietnamese the photos, since they reflected on the fact that the North Vietnamese are indeed in South Vietnam.

Q. Do you know anything about the North Vietnamese POW's held in the South? (Dr. Elder)

A. In 1965, when the International Committee of the Red Cross had offered to begin dealing with prisoners of war, and the South Vietnamese had not responded, the Americans threatened to take over handling the POW camps if the South Vietnamese did not correct the situation. Today the Swiss representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross inspect these southern camps. After their inspections, they report any shortcomings to the South Vietnamese government itself and request the shortcomings be remedied. It is estimated by the ICRC that the Saigon government holds about 31,000 POW's, of whom only about 18,000 have had their names submitted to the ICRC by the Saigon government, leaving 13,000 held but not unaccounted for. This 31,000 includes both NLF and North Vietnamese POW's.

When Dr. Elder was in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam, he visited a civilian political prison and found conditions there very deplorable, crowded with people (1,400 in a prison designed for 400) locked up in great numbers at night with no toilet facilities. So, the Quakers, like the Fellowship of Reconciliation, "are on record" as having noted these unsatisfactory prison conditions.

This report is based on notes taken by

[REDACTED]

EO 12812-2  
b7c

CO 100-909

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*b2c EO12812-2*

MRS. [REDACTED] continued that she received a form letter from a group in Philadelphia known as the Women strike for Peace, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107. The letter is dated January 21, 1970, which letter is signed by ETHEL TAYLOR (Mrs. William Taylor) 1505 Ashford Way, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. MRS. [REDACTED] made available a copy of this letter.

*b2c EO12812-2*



TWENTY SOUTH TWELFTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107  
Telephone: 561-2636

January 21, 1970

Dear Mrs [REDACTED]

b7c  
EO 128122

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

*Ethel Taylor*  
Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way  
Phila., Pa., 19151  
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.

b2c EO 12812-2  
MRS. [REDACTED] stated that her first contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam was by letter dated January 28, 1970, from this group, addressed to her home in Anderson. This letter was signed by BARBARA WEBSTER. MRS. [REDACTED] made available a copy of this letter.  
b7c

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

111 b7c PER ED 12812-2

(212) 765-1490

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

January 28, 1970

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
  
\*staff

Dear [REDACTED] b7c

Ethel Taylor has asked us to contact you and we are enclosing our Information Sheet which describes the Committee of Liaison.

Also enclosed is an air letter form which you may wish to use. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners may send and receive one letter a month, and a package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the correct mail address and route in the Information Sheet.

The only way to secure the eventual release of prisoners is through the decision by the United States to end the war. But in the meantime we are pleased to be able to assist in the communication between men and their families. We hope to be sending you letters from Robert in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

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b7c  
[REDACTED]

CO 100-909

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*b7c*  
MRS. [REDACTED] stated that her next contact with this Committee of Liaison was dated April 20, 1970, which was a form letter addressed to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This letter is signed by STEVEN E. HALLIWELL, a copy of which was furnished by [REDACTED]. This letter enclosed a letter from her son to her. *ED 128122*  
*b7c*

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

April 20, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear [REDACTED] b7c CO 128122

Rev. Richard Fernandez, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned today from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 others from prisoners being held in North Vietnam.

While there, Rev. Fernandez held a lengthy interview with three pilots, Cdr. Robert Schweitzer, Cdr. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Miller. He also was advised by North Vietnamese authorities that families should write letters monthly on the enclosed air-letter forms. We are therefore sending several to you at this time and will send more with subsequent mail.

We are of course very pleased to be able to forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven E. Halliwell*  
Steven E. Halliwell

*Rev. Fernandez, a United Church of Christ minister*



CO 100-909  
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b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] stated that the above letter from her son through the Committee of Liaison was the only letter that she has received through the Committee's activities.

ED 282-2  
b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] stated that the next letter she received was from the Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y., which letter was dated June 4, 1970, and was signed by RICHARD E. FERNANDEZ, Director of this group. MRS. [REDACTED] made available a copy of this letter.

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# CLERGY AND LAYMEN CONCERNED ABOUT VIETNAM

a national emergency committee

475 Riverside Drive

New York, N.Y. 10027

212-749-8518

## CO-CHAIRMEN

Dr. John C. Bennett  
President,  
Union Theological Seminary

Rabbi Abraham J. Meschel  
Professor, Jewish Theological  
Seminary of America

Mrs. Coretta Scott King  
Atlanta, Georgia

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Sheed & Ward, Inc.

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Vice-President  
St. John's College  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

## DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard R. Fernandez

## PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Mrs. Laverne Banks  
Mr. David Schilling  
Mr. Michael O. Sedore  
Mr. Keith Watson  
Miss Vicki West

June 4, 1970

Dear [REDACTED] b7c

Thanks so much for your letter of May 9. I've simply been over my head with work, and I'm just now getting into some of my back correspondence. EO 12812-2

I was pleased to be able to go to North Vietnam and carry a letter to your son. With you, I hope that a speedy end to the war can be found so that your son and the sons of Vietnamese can be returned to their homes.

If there is ever any way in which I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

*RRF/vmw*  
Richard R. Fernandez  
Director

RRF/vmw

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# NATIONAL COMMITTEE

\*Mrs. Mia Adjali  
 \*Dr. John C. Bennett  
 Rev. Daniel Berrigan, S.J.  
 Rev. Philip Berrigan, S.S.J.  
 Rev. Eugene Carson Blake  
 Rev. Harold Bosley  
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 \*Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel  
 Rev. David R. Hunter  
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 \*Mr. Barry Johnson  
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 \*Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld  
 \*Mrs. Howard Levine  
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 \*Dr. Seymour Meiman  
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 Dr. Hans J. Morgenthau  
 Rt. Rev. J. Brooke Mosley

\*Rev. Richard John Neuhaus  
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 \*Mr. Michael Novak  
 \*Rev. Robert Pierce  
 \*Mr. Robert C. Ransom  
 Rabbi Max Routenberg  
 Dr. W. Harold Row  
 \*Mr. Philip Scharper  
 Dr. Howard Schomer  
 \*Dr. James P. Shannon  
 Dr. Richard Shaul  
 Rev. Rodney Shaw  
 \*Rev. John B. Sheerin, C.S.P.  
 Rev. Joseph Sittler  
 Miss Thelma Stevens  
 \*Dr. Tom T. Stonier  
 Bishop R. Marvin Stuart  
 Dr. John M. Swomley, Jr.  
 Sister Ann Patrick Ware, S.L.  
 Mrs. Theodore O. Wedel  
 Rabbi Jacob Weinstein  
 \*Dr. Charles C. West  
 Mr. Herman Will, Jr.  
 \*Dr. Walter Wink  
 Dr. Colin W. Williams

\*Denotes Steering Committee members.

ALL b7c PER EO 12812-2

CO 100-909

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b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] stated she had received an information sheet from the Committee of Liaison dated January, 1970, which sheet gave background information, functions of the committee, clarification and "who we are".

b7c  
MRS. [REDACTED] advised that no member of the Committee of Liaison has personally contacted her and the only contact she has had has been by letter or letters which are earlier set forth in this interview. She advised in no way has the Committee harassed her in any manner. She advised that as a result of her contact with this Committee, she has received one letter from her son. MRS. [REDACTED] stated b7c she and her husband had attended a meeting in Washington in May, 1970, which meeting was dedicated to the discussion of Prisoners now held by North Vietnamese authorities and how relatives could contact these prisoners of war. She stated over the past year and a half, she has become acquainted with several other families who also have sons or husbands now prisoners of war. She advised that her son's pilot was named [REDACTED] who has never been heard from since the time that her son's jet crashed. She advised she has had some contact with MRS. [REDACTED] whose father is an Admiral in the Navy, stationed in Washington. MRS. [REDACTED] stated that she would be glad to provide the above information in the form of testimony if it were needed.

b7c

b7c

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CO 100-909

All b7c ~~see~~ EO 12812-2

Lieutenant JOHN A. DRAUGHON, Personal Affairs Officer, Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston, South Carolina, on July 22, 1970 furnished the names of the following persons:

Mrs. [REDACTED] South Carolina, wife of [REDACTED] who is missing in action in Vietnam and may be a prisoner of the North Vietnamese. b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] Georgia, telephone number [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] United States Air Force. b7c

[REDACTED] South Carolina, telephone number [REDACTED]

Father of [REDACTED] United States Air Force, prisoner in North Vietnam. b7c

He furnished the names of no additional persons. b7c

[REDACTED] South Carolina, was contacted on July 27, 1970 and she advised that she has had no contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) and she knows no one that has been in contact with COLIFAM. b7c

She declined to furnish the identity of other families in the Charleston, South Carolina, area.

A/ 6X PER EO 12812-2

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]

On July 31, 1970, negative attempts made to interview Sgt. [REDACTED] Personnel Affairs Office, Myrtle Beach Air Force Base (AFB).

On August 11, 1970, Sgt. [REDACTED] Personnel Affairs, Myrtle Beach AFB, advised that according to his files which include only Air Force personnel, he has the following record of two individuals who are, in Air Force terms, "missing in action".

#### FIRST INDIVIDUAL

Captain HENRY LEWIS ALLEN, white male, date of birth - September 31, 1943, at Conway, South Carolina, Service Number 266-60-3546, assignment - Detachment 1 56th Special Operations Wing as of March 26, 1970. record reflected only family is mother. [REDACTED]

#### SECOND INDIVIDUAL

The second individual is a Captain MELVIN E. LADEWIG, white male, date of birth - August 8, 1944 in Denver, Colorado, Service Number 522-54-8724, assigned to 497th Tac. Fighter Squadron. He stated the only family was LADEWIG's wife [REDACTED]

and one infant son. [REDACTED]

He stated both individuals were pilots and that he had talked personally with [REDACTED] on numerous occasions; however, they have never mentioned to him that they had been contacted by any group affiliated with prisoners of war.

Sgt. [REDACTED] explained that Captain ALLEN was on a training mission with another pilot. Apparently during a maneuver the plane crashed and Captain ALLEN was presumed to be dead.

He stated that in regard to Captain LADEWIG that while making an attempted landing, observation of the aircraft

CO 100-900

2

following the first pass, observers saw an explosion and subsequent fireball, but no parachute. He stated that Captain LADEWIG was presumed to be dead.

He stated both individuals had been flying out of Thailand and there has been no evidence to his knowledge of correspondence from them since they were declared missing in action.

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67- EO 12812-2

[REDACTED] Detachment Commander,  
Office of Special Investigations (OSI), Shaw Air Force  
Base, South Carolina, advised on September 3, 1970 he could  
furnish no additional information concerning instant  
matter.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 9/22/70

FROM :

SAC, DALLAS (100-12009) (P)

SUBJECT :

COLIFAM  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/22/93 BY 315,570

Re New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter. Three copies are enclosed for New York.

The Bureau's attention is directed to the fact that all of the wives or relatives of prisoners of war (POW) who have been interviewed by the Dallas Office thus far concerning their contact with COLIFAM have expressed an attitude of cooperation with the FBI; however, each has requested that none of the information which they furnish concerning COLIFAM be disseminated outside the FBI until such time as their respective husband or relative is released and safely back in the United States. It is believed that other POW families, when identified, will express the same attitude. Dallas, therefore, proposes not to pursue the investigation to identify and interview additional POW families regarding their contact with COLIFAM, UACB.

Dallas indices are negative concerning COLIFAM.

Investigation is being conducted by the Dallas Office at Fort Worth, Texas, to locate and interview Mrs. [redacted] and Mrs. [redacted].

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

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REC-34

ENCLOSURE

REC-18

SEP 24 1970

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)
- 2 - New York (100-168469) (Enc. 3) (RM)
- 2 - Dallas

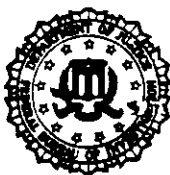
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5010-108-02

OCT 19 1970

Savings Bonds Regularly Through Payroll Savings Plan



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Dallas, Texas  
September 22, 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIETNAM

Confidential informants familiar with activities of groups in the Dallas, Texas area, who are opposed to the war in Vietnam, were contacted during the course of this investigation and could furnish no information regarding captioned organization.

POW/MIA EO-12812  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/12/93 BY 912  
345,570

62c  
EO12812-2

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

100-45777-124

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

1Date 8/28/70

Mr. [REDACTED] United We Stand, Exchange Park, [REDACTED] that on September 16, 1969, he accompanied Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c  
 Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] all wives of prisoners of war (POW) being held in North Vietnam, to Paris, France, where they contacted a representative of the North Vietnam government who identified himself as Mr. TAM. He advised this person told him that if he really wanted to do something to help the POWs in North Vietnam, that he should return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS or CORA WEISS. Further, that he should join the peace movement to end the war in Vietnam and the POWs would not be a problem.

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that in November, 1969, the day before Thanksgiving, he filmed an interview with a Mr. GIAI, a representative of the North Vietnamese in Stockholm, Sweden, and this person also advised him to return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS or CORA WEISS if he wanted to assist the POW families.

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he returned to Stockholm, Sweden, on August 7, 1970, and again contacted a representative of the North Vietnamese. He stated this person refused to identify himself and told him to return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS if he wanted to help the POWs. He advised he had a telephone conversation with a Swedish secretary who is employed at the North Vietnam Embassy in Stockholm and this person told him that he had been previously told how to help the POWs; that is, he should return to the United States and contact RENNIE DAVIS.

Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he has worked with Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c  
 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, 1 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C., and that through this office the identities and addresses of all POWs whose families have been contacted by COLIFAM could be obtained.

On 8/19/70 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 100-12009

by SA [REDACTED] 2 Date dictated 8/24/70

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

1

Date 8/28/70

Mr. [REDACTED] United We Stand, Exchange Park, advised he was in Vientiane, Laos, in December, 1969, and rode from the airport to the hotel with CORA WEISS. He stated she had just returned from Hanoi on an ICC plane. She talked about her trip to Hanoi, her stay in a villa there and how well she was treated. [REDACTED] stated that WEISS told him that Hanoi was permitting POWs to communicate with their families and that the letters were going out; however, these letters were being confiscated by the CIA or State Department. MEURER stated, in his opinion, WEISS actually believed this statement to be true. [REDACTED] stated that he asked WEISS if she had brought out any letters from POWs and her reply was no. However, at a press conference in New York City at Christmas, 1969, she said she had brought mail out from the POWs. [REDACTED] advised that Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] known POW, Santa Fe, New Mexico, [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] were in Vientiane, Laos, and had breakfast with CORA WEISS and MADELIENE DUCKLES, seeking information concerning their husbands; however, no information was believed to have been obtained. MEURER stated Mrs. [REDACTED] can be contacted through her sister, Mrs. [REDACTED] Washington, D. C., phone [REDACTED]. He stated that Colonel ROBERT WORK was the head of POW Affairs in Washington.

On 8/19/70 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 100-12009  
 by SA [REDACTED] 3 Date dictated 8/24/70

RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

B. APPROX

On August 27, 1970, Mr. [REDACTED] advised that Douglas B. Hegdahl, a Navy seaman, was released by Hanoi to Rennie Davis on August 5, 1969, and was brought back to the United States by Davis. He advised Hegdahl was in Dallas for a conference with he and [REDACTED] August 24-26, 1970. He stated that in interview with Hegdahl, Hegdahl explained that he had never seen or heard of Rennie Davis prior to his release to him and that after he returned to the United States, he had had no subsequent contact with Davis or COLIFAM. Meurer advised that Hegdahl thought he was chosen for release by the North Vietnamese because he was with the Navy, not a pilot, and was a very young boy, age 21, and just happened to be at a place where Davis could see him. Meurer explained that Hegdahl was cooperative, but would not do anything against COLIFAM or Davis for fear of jeopardizing lives of other POWs being held.

On August 28, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas, advised her husband, [REDACTED] has been missing in action since October, 1968, and that she has never heard from him since he was reported missing in action. She stated she has had no communications or contacts with COLIFAM.

On August 28, 1970, Mr. [REDACTED] advised that his son, [REDACTED] was a POW in North Vietnam and that his daughter-in-law had received a letter through COLIFAM; however, he did not wish to discuss the matter and neither did he want to furnish his daughter-in-law's address for fear that contact with her might jeopardize the life of his son.

On September 1, 1970, [REDACTED] Texas, advised that his sister's son was a POW in North Vietnam. He stated his sister, this boy's mother, had received three letters through COLIFAM. The first letter was dated December 24, 1969, and was received in March, 1970. The second letter was received two weeks later. He stated that his sister then sent COLIFAM a \$25 contribution and subsequently received a letter of several pages which appeared to have come through without being censored as it contained language which any boy would write his mother. [REDACTED] stated that he would not

RE: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM

identify either his sister or his nephew for fear of placing his nephew's life in jeopardy. He advised he would be glad to furnish the name of his nephew following his release and return to the United States provided this information is needed at that time.

On September 14, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] Texas, advised that her husband, [REDACTED], U.S.  
Air Force, was reported missing in action [REDACTED] 1969. 50128  
She stated that she has been notified by the U.S. Air Force that they now believe he is a POW since they have located the crash-site of his airplane and no evidence was found to indicate he was deceased. She stated she has not received any correspondence through COLIFAM and neither has she been contacted by this organization.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

All b7c per 50128122

Date 9/4/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] Texas, advised that her husband, [REDACTED] Social Security No. [REDACTED] was reported missing in action [REDACTED] 1966, in North Vietnam by the U.S. Air Force. She stated that in April, 1967, the Air Force notified her that her husband was then believed to be a prisoner of war. She stated in April, 1968, her husband's status was changed to prisoner of war.

In March, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she received a call from STEWART MEACHAM stating that a packet of letters had been received from Hanoi which included a letter from her husband.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that since receiving the first letter, she has received six other letters all through the Committee of Liaison.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her letters had all been sent to Randolph Air Force Base where her husband's handwriting had been verified.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she is on the [REDACTED] She stated she has made two trips to Washington in connection with her work as a member of the [REDACTED] and has been quoted in various news articles concerning her opinion of the Committee of Liaison. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that there are 184 prisoners of war being held in North Vietnam whose families reside in Texas.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she would not be willing to testify at any type of hearing against members of the Committee of Liaison for fear of placing her husband's life in jeopardy. Mrs. [REDACTED] made available copies of letters which she received through the Committee of Liaison.

On 8/27/70 at [REDACTED] Texas File # Dallas 12009

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/31/70

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036



b7c  
E012812-2

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Texas [REDACTED]



# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

## with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

### CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

March 25, 1970

### Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Dear *Wm* [REDACTED] *b7c EO 12812-2 b7c*

### Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

### Committee (in formation):

Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

We have just received word from Hanoi that a letter from [REDACTED] has been mailed to you from North Vietnam. His name was included in a list of 80 servicemen just received; this list represents advance notice of 82 letters mailed together in a package due to arrive soon. As soon as it comes, we will forward it to you. Forgive this mimeographed communication, but we wanted you to know as quickly as possible.

The Committee of Liaison was set up to facilitate communication between men who are held in North Vietnam and their families in this country. You may be interested to know that since this new arrangement was made with the North Vietnamese in December, 376 letters have been sent from Hanoi through us to families, and that as of this current notification 256 servicemen have been confirmed as held by the North Vietnamese. More mail is en route and it is expected that mail will soon be normalized.

The arrangement for mail is described in the announcement enclosed. We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have further questions. In the meantime we continue to work for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam; to bring to an end the fighting, killing and capturing; and to hasten the day when all families, American and Vietnamese will be reunited.

Sincerely yours,

*Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger*  
Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger

TABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

April 20, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee:  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Rev. Richard Fernandez, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned today from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 others from prisoners being held in North Vietnam.

While there, Rev. Fernandez held a lengthy interview with three pilots, Cdr. Robert Schweitzer, Cdr. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Miller. He also was advised by North Vietnamese authorities that families should write letters monthly on the enclosed air-letter forms. We are therefore sending several to you at this time and will send more with subsequent mail.

We are of course very pleased to be able to forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven E. Halliwell*  
Steven E. Halliwell

321-3810

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

62c  
5012812-2

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 81 others.

We know it's been a long time since you were informed that this letter was en route, but it's a long trip and we too are delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes*

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes  
for the Committee of Liaison

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

30 W. 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10018

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

June 14, 1970

Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

We are very glad to send you the enclosed letter from North Vietnam. It, along with 142 others, was brought to this country by Jean Palomdon, Nancy Rubin and Judy Claver -- anti-war activists who spent two weeks in North Vietnam.

The letters were slightly delayed in getting here because all the material they brought back with them, including the letters, was confiscated by the Canadian Customs upon their arrival in Montreal. This was totally unexpected and unprecedented; but they generated enough pressure so that everything was returned to them.

There will be another group going to North Vietnam at the end of this month. If you would like them to take a letter from you, please send it to us in the next week or so.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

b2c E012812-2

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

ABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

Chairmen:

Dave Dellinger

Coro Weiss

June 25, 1970

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Dear friend:

Committee

Richard J. Barnett

Rennie Davis

Madeline Duckles

Prof. Richard Falk

Rev. Richard Fernandez

Norman Fruchter

\*Maggie Geddes

Steve Halliwell

Prof. Donald Kalish

Stewart Meacham

Prof. Bea Seitzman

Prof. Franz Schurmann

Ethel Taylor

\*Barbara Webster

Trudi Young

We are very happy to send you the enclosed letter. It, along with 105 others, was brought back to this country by a group of anti-war people who have just returned from a visit to North Vietnam.

This brings to a total of 1,110 letters which the Committee of Liaison has forwarded on to families since last December.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*

Barbara Webster

\*staff

# *with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

We 12nd Street, New York, N.Y. 1

(212) 765-1490

TABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez

To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam

Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

All b7c per EO 12812-2

Date 9/4/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] employed at [REDACTED] in interview. [REDACTED] advised that her husband, [REDACTED] U.S. Air Force, was reported missing in action by the Air Force January 19, 1967. She advised that his status was changed to a prisoner of war in October, 1969. She stated that this change was based on information furnished by a prisoner of war who had been released.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that in March, 1970, she received a letter from the Committee of Liaison stating in substance that a package of letters had been received from Hanoi which included a letter from her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that subsequently she received a telephone call from BARBARA WEBSTER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, advising that she had just had word that a letter from her husband, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, had been received and was being forwarded to her. She stated she received this letter March 11, 1970, and it was the first and only letter that she had received from her husband since he was reported missing in action. She advised the letter was dated December 23, 1969, and was postmarked December 25, 1969. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that since receiving this first letter, she has received two other letters from her husband through the Committee of Liaison.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she does not approve of the U. S. Government permitting the Committee of Liaison to deal with the Hanoi government; however, she did not want any of the information which she furnished the FBI to be disseminated outside of the FBI for fear of retaliation against her husband. She advised she would not be willing to testify against members of the Committee of Liaison.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that the letters which she received from her husband and from the Committee of Liaison have been forwarded to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

On 8/28/70 at [REDACTED] Texas File # Dallas 100-12009

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/31/70



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

All b7c DER 12812-2

Date 9/2/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] advised that her husband, [REDACTED] United States Air Force Serial Number [REDACTED] Social Security Number [REDACTED] was shot down [REDACTED] southeast of Hanoi, [REDACTED] 1965. She stated that he was flying an unarmed trainer helicopter, CH 3C (Jolly Green Giant). She advised that he was reported missing in action until [REDACTED] 1967, at which time his status was changed by the United States Air Force to POW. She advised that in early 1970, she received a telegram from OLAF PALME, Prime Minister of Sweden, advising that the North Vietnamese had confirmed that her husband was alive and was a POW. She stated following this she received a letter from BARBARA WEBSTER of the Committee of Liaison stating that a package of letters had been received from Hanoi that included a letter from her husband. She stated this letter was forwarded to her and was received April 24, 1970. She stated this was the first communication she had received from her husband since he was reported missing in action. b7c

[REDACTED] She stated that subsequent to this, she has received no letters from her husband and now feels that her public criticism of the Committee of Liaison had stopped all letters from her husband. She stated that the other wives and families of POW's were receiving monthly letters. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she has written the Committee of Liaison several letters asking for an explanation as to why she is not receiving any communications from her husband and on July 30, 1970, received a letter from BARBARA WEBSTER giving a rather innocuous explanation for this. b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she made a trip to Paris, France, September, 1969, with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. She stated that they contacted a representative of the North Vietnamese named XNAN OAHN at the "Compound" at Choix La Roc who appeared to be interested in helping them make contact with their husbands. She stated that OAHN also gave them [REDACTED] b7c

On 8/26/70 at [REDACTED] Texas File # Dallas 100-12009  
New York 100-168469  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/1/70 b7c

the name of "RENARD DAVIS, Committee of Liaison, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York" and told them that they should contact DAVIS. She stated that they were also told that they should return to the United States and "remain quiet or gather the masses to protest American intervention in South Vietnam."

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she and the above mentioned wives returned to Paris in November, 1969, and XNAN OAHN was no longer assigned to the North Vietnamese Compound. She stated that they contacted a man, MY VAN BO, at the North Vietnamese Embassy in Paris. She stated that he refused to identify himself and claimed that their husbands should be prosecuted as "air pirates and war criminals and did not deserve human treatment". She stated this man told them to tell their children that their fathers did not deserve human treatment under the Geneva rules. She stated that this man accused them of being United States Agents and that they were sent to Paris by the United States Government in an effort to make the North Vietnamese look bad. She advised that they then went to Stockholm, Sweden, where they had a conference with OLAF PALME but he was unable to furnish any help or information concerning their husbands. In Stockholm, she stated they contacted a LEKY GIAI, a North Vietnamese representative who gave them the "same line", also telling them to return to the United States and join in the protest of the American intervention in the war in South Vietnam.

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she was willing to furnish this information to the FBI but would not appear as a witness until such time as her husband was released and was in the United States. Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished correspondence that she had received from the Committee of Liaison.

b7c

<sup>3</sup>  
**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

**CABLE ADDRESS:**

**COLIAFAM**

(212) 765-1490

**Co-chairmen:**

**Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss**

**Treasurer:**

**Mrs. Anne Bennett**

**Committee**

**Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young**

**\*staff**

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] *b7c July 27, 1970  
EO 12812-2*

We will give your letter to your husband to some Americans who will be meeting with some North Vietnamese in August. I am afraid we do not know one way or the other whether a letter gets delivered or not. We assume that if letters follow the North Vietnamese's suggestions (using the letter form, writing once a month and only about family and health, etc), that the letters are received by the prisoners.

We have not received any word at all from the North Vietnamese regarding why some prisoners write more than others. I assume there <sup>may</sup> be several reasons, such as: purely administrative problems such as a shortage of translators (which may be more of a problem at one detention camp than at another); the inevitable problems in any prison situation where, for example, letter writing is a privilege which may be taken away for disciplinary reasons or the prisoner himself may be in such a "funk"

that he just does not write often or at all; also the problem particularly inherent in a prisoner of war situation where the prisoners may try to pass information out so those letters are just not sent. I want to stress that we do not know if any of those are true in this situation in general or in your husband's case in particular. I just suggest them as possibilities.

You should know, if you don't already, that there are several wives or parents who have received either no letter at all or just one or two, so yours is not an isolated case.

Do let us know when you need more of the letter forms.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster

5  
TEE OF LIAISON  
West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036



62  
50 12812-2

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

6

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

## CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

## Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

## Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

## Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

b2c

ED 12812-2

We're very happy to forward this letter to you which just arrived from North Vietnam along with 81 others.

We know it's been a long time since you were informed that this letter was en route, but it's a long trip and we too are delighted that they've arrived.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes*

Barbara Webster Maggie Geddes  
for the Committee of Liaison

# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

## **CABLE ADDRESS:**

**COLIAFAM**

May 4, 1970

## **Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

**From:** Rev. Richard Fernandez

**To:** The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam

## **Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Re:** Information on correspondence with prisoners

## **Committee**

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

## **\*staff**

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their

8  
Richard Fernandez memo - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 9/2/70

Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in interview advised that her husband, [REDACTED] Serial Number [REDACTED] was reported missing in action (MIA) in Vietnam, [REDACTED], 1965. She stated that she was notified by the Air Force in January, 1967, that his status had been changed to a prisoner of war (POW). She stated that she heard nothing from her husband during this time. She advised in April, 1970, she received a telephone call from a person who identified herself as ETHEL TAYLOR. TAYLOR stated that a packet of letters had been received from Hanoi and among these letters was a letter from her husband.

[REDACTED] made a five-day trip to Paris, France, September 14, 1969. She stated this trip was arranged by Congressman OLIN TEAGUE. She advised that in Paris they called upon the North Vietnamese delegation and the representative whose name she was not able to recall but was referred to as "TOM" assured all of them that he would do all he could to arrange for the men being held as prisoners of war in North Vietnam to correspond with their families in the United States. She advised that they were given the name of RENNIE DAVIS and his address in New York and were told that they should contact him on their return to the United States. She advised that in a separate conversation they were told that the POW's in North Vietnam were being permitted to write their families but the United States Government was confiscating these letters. She stated she was also told that a film had been made by the North Vietnamese showing the POW's, their activities, and living quarters, but this film had also been confiscated and was not ever shown.

[REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she had heard that the wife of the nephew of [REDACTED] whose husband was a POW sent the Committee of Liaison a check for \$25 after she received a letter from her husband through the committee. She stated that subsequent to this, this wife received a six page uncensored letter from her husband.

[REDACTED] stated that after hearing this information.

On 8/31/70 at [REDACTED] Texas File # Dallas 100-12009  
New York 100-168469  
by SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/1/70

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

DL 100-12009

she sent the committee her check for \$10 and stated that she was interested in going to Hanoi as a relative of a POW and expressed some interest in the North Vietnamese. She stated that she did this solely for the purpose of trying to establish contact with her husband and very definitely that she was not in sympathy with the way the Committee of Liaison was working with the North Vietnamese in Hanoi.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she would work with "the devil" if this would help in her communication with her husband.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she did not want any of the information furnished by her disseminated outside the FBI and that she would not testify against the Committee of Liaison for fear of retaliation by the North Vietnamese.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished copies of pertinent letters she had received from the Committee of Liaison which are as follows:

## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York, N.Y. 10005

212-765-1490

January, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young  
\*staff

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### Background

In the course of the Vietnam war, links have been built between the people of Vietnam and Americans who oppose the war through numerous meetings and conferences. These meetings have taken place in Europe, Canada, Cuba and Southeast Asia and have included people from both the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (now part of the Provisional Revolutionary Government).

In these meetings the Vietnamese have always stressed a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Vietnam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

It is therefore understandable that the Vietnamese should indicate their basic confidence in the American people through the peace movement which they believe embodies American ideals, rather than the government. And in the past, the Vietnamese have asked the peace movement to receive U.S. servicemen--primarily pilots whose planes were shot down--when the North Vietnamese government has decided to release them. On three separate occasions--February 1968, July 1968 and July 1969--the peace movement has gone to Hanoi and returned with released servicemen; on one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to receive three released NLF captives.

In addition, Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

#### Functions of the Committee

A Committee of Liaison has now been established as an extension of these past efforts at the request of the North Vietnamese. As on past occasions, the peace movement is responding to a request by the Vietnamese to meet a specific, immediate need and is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

~~The Committee will seek to facilitate communication between families~~  
and the U.S. and servicemen now imprisoned in North Vietnam. Basically, the Committee will receive letters from servicemen and forward them through the domestic mails, thereby decreasing, we hope, past problems in the receipt of such mail. We will also forward letters to North Vietnam at the request of relatives. Families are of course still free to send letters and parcels directly but should note that the instructions on mailing previously issued by the State Department are wrong. The correct address is:

name of serviceman  
serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots  
Captured in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

In addition it is possible that the U.S. Peace will be able to verify

INFORMATION SHEET - page 2

requests for information about servicemen from families who are uncertain if their relatives are being held in North Vietnam. Requests should be submitted to the Committee, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course transmit immediately any information that it receives to the family.

Clarification

Two clarifications are in order: first, it should be noted that the Committee will be dealing solely with the government of North Vietnam and will not have any information on men held in South Vietnam by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Nor will we be able to provide information at this time concerning men held in Laos or any other South-east Asian country where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat missions.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it more difficult for the Vietnamese to be open to the concerns of American families by using the families' genuine desires as a propaganda ploy. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from fliers already released: apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and materiel.

Who We Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of these men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels--who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience--can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Daddy Warbucks. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.



TWENTY SOUTH TWELFTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107  
Telephone: 561-2636

January 21, 1970

Dear [REDACTED] b7c  
EO 12812-2

I am sorry that it has taken me so long to write to you but I've been waiting until I could make definite suggestions to you and now I am pleased to say I can.

I regret very much that I did not bring back a letter for you but now an organization has been set up between the Peace Movement and Hanoi specifically for the purpose of forwarding mail and forwarding inquiries regarding prisoners from the immediate family.

The organization is the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and is located at 365 W. 42nd Street, New York City, N.Y., 10036.

I am a member of this Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Cordially,

*Ethel Taylor*

Mrs. William Taylor

1505 Ashford Way  
Phila., Pa., 19151  
MI 2-9078 (Area Code 215)

P.S. You will shortly receive information directly from the Committee of Liaison with details of its operation.

6  
**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

January 27, 1970 (212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bec Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] b2c  
E6 12812-2

Ethel Taylor, a member of our newly-formed committee, which will facilitate communication between American servicemen held in North Vietnam and their families, has asked us to contact you. We are enclosing an Information Sheet describing the Committee of Liaison.

We have also duplicated the enclosed letter form which you may wish to use in writing your relative. The North Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter per month and one package (not more than six pounds in weight) every other month. Note the address and mail route given in the Information Sheet.

If you would like us to try to find out if your relative is a prisoner in North Vietnam, send his full name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. We will then transmit the inquiry to the North Vietnamese and are hopeful of receiving a response to every request made.

It is important to understand that there undoubtedly were many pilots whose planes were shot down but whom the North Vietnamese could not rescue, and that there are prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam and by the Pathet Lao in Laos about whom we are not able to get information.

We understand your anguish in not knowing about your relative and we sincerely hope we can be of help in getting information about him for you.

Sincerely,  
*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

P.S. We apologize for sending a mimeographed letter but we wanted to get this word to you as quickly as possible.

## COMMITTEE OF A SGM

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAMCo-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora WeissTreasurer:  
Mrs. Anne BennettCommittee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Leo Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

*b7c  
501282 May 25, 1970*

Just wanted to let you know  
that the letter you sent us on May 3  
for your husband was taken to North  
Vietnam with a group of anti-war  
people who left here on the 11th.

*Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster*

8  
**COMMITTEE OF L. ISDA**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

**CABLE ADDRESS:**

COLIAFAM

**Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss

**Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee**

Richard J. Barnett

Rennie Davis

Modeline Duckles

Prof. Richard Falk

Rev. Richard Fernandez

Norman Fruchter

\*Maggie Geddes

Steve Halliwell

Prof. Donald Kalish

Stewart Meacham

Prof. Bea Seitzman

Prof. Franz Schurmann

Ethel Taylor

\*Barbara Webster

Trudi Young

\*staff

620 August 13, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED] 4012812-2

Thank you for your letter of August 1st and for your thoughtfulness in sending a contribution to our work. The letter to your husband will be taken to North Vietnam by a group which leaves here this Monday.

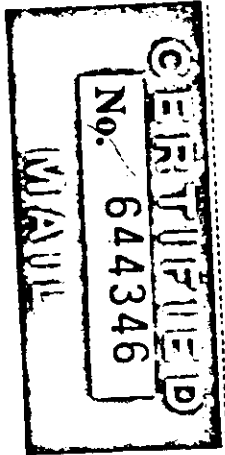
Yes, we have been approached by other wives regarding the possibility of going to Hanoi. Invitations to go there come from the North Vietnamese, and they have been to people who represent various anti-war groups, as well as to some newsmen -- people who will return to this country and then talk and write about their visit, hopefully hastening the day the U.S. completely withdraws from Vietnam. In the event (highly unlikely, I would think) that they decide they would like to invite a relative of a prisoner we will keep your request in mind.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster



COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036



AIR MAIL

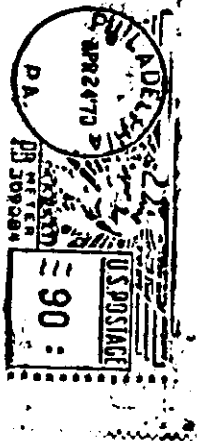
SPECIAL DELIVERY

(S2)

[REDACTED]

67c  
EO 12812-2

*Certified Spec. Del.*



RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

9

10

**NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressee)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LĨNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)



**GỬI (Addressee)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

11

b2c EO 12812-2

[REDACTED]

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated) December 13, 1969

[REDACTED]

b2c EO 12812-2

**CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (Write legibly and only on the lines).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (Write only about health and family).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (Letters from families should also conform to this proforma).

All b7c PER EO 12812-2

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MILWAUKEE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>9/18/70</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>7/20 - 9/14/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED]</b>	TYPE OF CASE <b>IS - MISCELLANEOUS; REGISTRATION ACT</b>

Reference

New York airtel to Bureau dated 6/9/70.  
San Antonio letter to Bureau dated 8/27/70.

- P -

Administrative

Referenced San Antonio letter, 8/27/70, set forth a list of Air Force personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action, as obtained 8/26/70, from Lieutenant Colonel ARCHIE GRATCH, U. S. Air Force Chief, Missing Persons Bureau, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Those persons contained on this list not already known to the Milwaukee Office are as follows:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE:  6 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM) 2 - New York (100-168469) (RM) 6 - Milwaukee (100-17068)		10 SEP 24 1970

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	
ARMY, OSI, AFS, SS, RAC-75		9/13/70		ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE
		5 OCT 15 1970		

*All b7c RE 60 12812-2*

Major DONALD W. DOWNING, Missing In Action (MIA)  
Parents Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wis.

Major STANLEY H. HORNE, MIA  
Wife Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wis.

Lieutenant Colonel GORDON A. LARSON, Prisoner of War (P)  
Mother [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wis.

*b7c*  
Captain LANCE P. SIJAN, MIA  
Parents Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wis.

Captain ROBERT D. TRIER, MIA  
Parents Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wis.

Colonel ROBERT F. WILKE, MIA  
Mother Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wis.

Captain PATRICK E. WYNNE, MIA  
Wife Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wis.

Leads

MILWAUKEE:

Will interview following relatives of servicemen  
missing in action or prisoners of war in North Vietnam:

AT [REDACTED] WIS.

Family of [REDACTED] *b7c*

(set forth in memo, 7/20/70)

AT [REDACTED] WIS.

b7c

Family of [REDACTED] USAF

(set forth in memo, 7/20/70)

AT [REDACTED] WIS.

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c

AT [REDACTED] WIS.

Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c

AT [REDACTED] WIS.

Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c

AT [REDACTED] WIS.

Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c

AT [REDACTED] WIS.

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*All b7c PER EO 12812-2*

## Copy to:

Report of:  
Date:

SA [REDACTED]  
September 18, 1970

Office: Milwaukee

Field Office File #: 100-17068

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;  
REGISTRATION ACT

Synopsis:

On 6/4/70, MARY WINN, a representative of Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), talked to three families of servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam at American Red Cross headquarters, Milwaukee, Wis. The "Milwaukee Journal" for 6/26/70 set forth the names of five Wisconsin servicemen furnished by COLIFAM as being prisoners in North Vietnam. [REDACTED] Wis., received two letters from her husband, imprisoned in North Vietnam, through COLIFAM in May 1970. On 4/20/70, a letter was delivered in person to Mrs. [REDACTED] by Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ and on 12/24/69 two letters were delivered in person by CORA WEISS, both of whom had just returned from North Vietnam. Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] Wis., who were in contact with COLIFAM through a form letter, received three letters from their son, a prisoner in North Vietnam. [REDACTED] Wis., after contact with COLIFAM through form letters, has received three letters and a postcard from her husband, a prisoner in North Vietnam.

Details:

- P -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 All b7c REA 12812-2

b7c Date 7/20/70

Mr. [REDACTED] Wisconsin, was apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview. Mr. [REDACTED] was advised that the Agent was conducting this interview as a result of the specific request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he understood this and would consent to an interview. b7c

b7c Mr. [REDACTED] states he has had no contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM). b7c

He did state, however, that on June 4, 1970, a Mrs. MARY WINN from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and who has been requested by the Department of Defense to tour the country and talk to wives and relatives of military personnel missing in Vietnam or known to be prisoners of war, discussed mutual problems regarding missing servicemen and action taken so far to have them repatriated. At the meeting, Mr. [REDACTED] advised there were three relatives of servicemen missing in Vietnam. a Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] whose son, [REDACTED] is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, and a [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] whose son, [REDACTED] is missing in Vietnam. Mrs. WINN is associated with the National League of Families of Prisoners in Southeast Asia, and Mr. [REDACTED] believes this office is quartered in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, area. b7c

On 7/13/70 at [REDACTED] Wisconsin File # MI 100-17068

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/14/70 b7c



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 31, 1970

1

[REDACTED] of Services to Military Families, American Red Cross, 2600 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis., was apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the purpose of the interview.

Mr. [REDACTED] was informed that this interview was requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, and that this investigation is undertaken to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a publicity agent, as described by the Act. [REDACTED] stated that on June 4, 1970, a [REDACTED] came to the Milwaukee chapter of the American Red Cross, 2600 West Wisconsin Avenue, and gave a talk concerning servicemen who are detained in North Vietnam. She spoke to approximately three individuals who had relations detained in North Vietnam. [REDACTED] stated she had a means of contacting the relatives of the persons in attendance by a specially prepared form letter, which was to be filled out and sent to the Camp of Detention for United States Pilots captured in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This was to be sent to Moscow, U.S.S.R. This form was given, Miss [REDACTED] said, by COLIFAM.

At the end of the speech, Mr. [REDACTED] asked Mrs. [REDACTED] for a form letter that would be used in contacting servicemen in North Vietnam. [REDACTED] said she had one and gave same to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that to the best of his knowledge, none of the families in attendance at the talk had taken advantage of the letter and sent it to North Vietnam via Moscow.

[REDACTED] further advised he would maintain contact with the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and would

On 7/27/70 at Milwaukee, Wis. File # MI 100-17068

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 7/31/70

MI 100-17068

2

forward any information he had relating to COLIFAM immediately upon receipt.

[REDACTED] further advised he will testify that Mrs. [REDACTED] made a speech in which reference was made to the letters in North Vietnam, which was being administered by COLIFAM.

[REDACTED] furnished a form letter which he indicated had been obtained from Mrs. [REDACTED] a copy of which follows:

FO 1281-~  
67c

**NGƯỜI GỬI (Addresser)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LĨNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

VIA MOSCOW, USSR

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

**GỬI (Addressee)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

62C EO 12812-2  
[REDACTED] 7/26/70

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated).....

**CHỈ CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

7/20/70

Date

The following information was obtained from a review of "The Milwaukee Journal" and "Milwaukee Sentinel" records, which are kept in "The Milwaukee Journal" Library, Fourth and State Streets, Milwaukee;

A clipping from Friday, June 26, 1970, "The Milwaukee Journal," had the following information datelined New York, New York:

A list compiled by the Committee of Liaison has the following five names from Wisconsin who are reportedly prisoners of war in North Vietnam:

DANIEL JAMES DAUGHTY, Ladysmith, Wisconsin;  
 FREDERIC E. FLOW, Appleton, Wisconsin;  
 GERALD LEE GERNDT, Suring, Wisconsin;  
 DONALD LESTER HELIGER, United States Air Force Major, Madison, Wisconsin;  
 WILLIAM JOHN METZGER, JR., Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

A clipping dated Saturday, June 22, 1970, from the "Milwaukee Sentinel" furnished the following information:

Three men who visited Hanoi and visited members of the Committee of Liaison are as follows:

KENNETH KIRKPATRICK, a member of the American Friends Service Committee, Seattle, Washington;  
 MARK S. PATSHKE, Professor of Biology, Harvard University;  
 ROBERT W. PFEIFFER, Professor of Zoology, University of Montana.

In "The Milwaukee Journal," dated December 23, 1969, the mother of GERALD LEE GERNDT, Suring, Wisconsin, stated she has been contacted by the Committee of Liaison.

An article appearing on Friday, January 16, 1970, in "The Milwaukee Journal," furnished the Committee for Liaison Headquarters address as Committee of Liaison, 365 West 42nd Street, New York, New York 10036. Mrs. CARL WEISS

On 7/13/70 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin File # MI 100-17068

by SA [REDACTED]

Date dictated 7/14/70

MI 100-17063

2

was listed as co-chairman, residence Riverdale, New York.  
Mrs. WEISS was quoted as saying letters should be addressed  
with prisoner's name, serial number, and words:

Camp of Detention for U.S. Pilots Captured  
Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
Moscow, Soviet Union

-1-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All file per EO 12812-2

b7c Date 7/27/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she is the wife of [REDACTED] United States Navy, serial number [REDACTED] who has been a captive of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) for three years and two months. She advised as follows:

She first became aware of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen detained in North Vietnam, (COLIFAM) through the news media. In March of 1970 she came in direct contact with COLIFAM when she received a letter from the Committee signed by CORA WEISS and DAVID DELLINGER, co-chairman of the Committee. The letter indicated that she would be receiving in the mail two letters from her husband in the very near future. On April 17, 1970 after not receiving the letters from her husband she called the New York office of COLIFAM and talked to a secretary, unidentified. The secretary indicated that a packet of 84 letters were forth coming from Hanoi, North Vietnam, but were not in the New York office as yet. On May 3, 1970 she received two letters from her husband via the Committee. One of the letters was addressed to Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] and a Christmas card was addressed to herself. She also received on April 20, 1970, a letter from her husband which was delivered by the Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, who had recently returned from North Vietnam.

She received two of the letters from her husband and both were delivered on December 24, 1969 by CORA WEISS, who at that time was not a member of COLIFAM, but had also recently returned from North Vietnam.

She has discussed the Committee called COLIFAM with other wives of missing servicemen, but she is not aware of any others that have received letters via COLIFAM.

She would be willing to cooperate with the United States Department of Justice in event her testimony became necessary at a later date.

On 7/20/70 at [REDACTED] Wis. File # MI 100-17068

by SA [REDACTED] b7c Date dictated 7/22/70

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/6/70

1

*All b7c PER EO 12812-2*

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] was contacted at her residence by SA [REDACTED] where she was informed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was conducting an inquiry into the activities of an organization calling itself the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam and known as COLIPAM.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] was informed that this inquiry was being conducted at the request of J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, United States Department of Justice.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED] that she had had only one contact with the above organization and that this was in the form of a letter which she had received in reply to a letter sent to COLIPAM by herself.

*b7c*  
Mrs. [REDACTED] continued that she had read about the organization in the local newspaper and had addressed the letter to their New York office, requesting any information they might have concerning the status and whereabouts of her son, [REDACTED] who was missing in action in Vietnam. She advised that this letter was addressed to them, she believed, in January of 1970.

*b7c*  
She received by return mail a letter which she made available to SA [REDACTED] and which reflects the following:  
*b7c*

On 8/5/70 at [REDACTED] Wisconsin File # MI 100-17068

by SA [REDACTED] *b7c* Date dictated 8/5/70



# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairman:  
David Pellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez

\*Maggie Gaddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

February 6, 1970

Dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Cora Weiss has asked us to answer your letter of January 20th regarding your son. I am enclosing an Information Sheet which explains what the Committee of Liaison is.

As you will see, one of the things we are doing is trying to get information on servicemen who may be prisoners in North Vietnam. Servicemen who are captured in South Vietnam are held there by the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the North Vietnamese have no information about them.

If your son was shot down over North Vietnam and you would like us to ask the North Vietnamese for information about him please send his name, service number and any details you have on when and where he was shot down. If you know of any other families in a similar situation you might want to refer them to us as well.

We understand the anxiety you must feel in not knowing about your son and hope our government will soon come to its senses and withdraw from Vietnam so that all families -- Vietnamese and American -- can be reunited. In the meantime we hope to be of help in getting information about prisoners held in North Vietnam.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

In addition, the letter was accompanied by a two page information sheet from COLIFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> informed that when she observed the names of the individuals who were on the Committee and determined that several of them were identical to individuals involved in the Chicago conspiracy trials, she ceased any contact and directed no further correspondence to COLIFAM. Since that time, she has determined from the United States Government that her son is a prisoner of war of the Vietcong but has not had any contact with him.

52812-2  
Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> stated that she knows of no one individual by name who has had any contact with COLIFAM but does know that there are numerous families throughout the country who have contacted this group. She stated she has obtained this knowledge as she attended a nationwide meeting held May 1, 1970, at Washington, D. C., with the families of servicemen missing and prisoners of war in Vietnam. During this meeting she met numerous persons who have had contact with COLIFAM, but she could not recall their identities.

Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b7c</sup> advised she would immediately contact the FBI should she receive any future correspondence from this group.

1

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

All b7c per EO 12812-2

Date 8/20/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] was apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview.

Mrs. [REDACTED] was further advised that this interview was part of an investigation requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, and that this investigation is undertaken to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a public agent as described by that Act.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has had no contact with COLIFAM or CORA WEISS or any other member of the Committee of Liaison. She further advised that she does not wish to be associated with COLIFAM.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that on June 4, 1970, she attended a meeting at the American Red Cross, 2400 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where a MARY WINN gave a talk on American prisoners of war in North Vietnam. At that meeting WINN made mention of COLIFAM and displayed a form letter that the North Vietnamese wished to be used by the families of servicemen to contact these servicemen in North Vietnam. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that WINN did not state that she was a member of COLIFAM, but did stress the use of this form letter in contacting known prisoners in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she had been contacted by KENNETH KIRKPATRICK, Peace Education Secretary for the American Friends Service Committee, Inc., 814 North East 40th Street, Seattle, Washington. KIRKPATRICK gave to Mrs. [REDACTED] the COLIFAM list of 335 names of known prisoners of war held in Hanoi. Mrs. [REDACTED] made this list available to the investigating Agent as well as the form letter to be used in contacting prisoners in North Vietnam as given her by Mrs. WINN.

On 8/7/70 at [REDACTED] Wisconsin File # MI 100-17068

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/14/70

All b7c per sec 1282-2

b2c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she had had contact with KIRKPATRICK by letter in which she asked him that on his next trip to North Vietnam would he please attempt to deliver a letter to her son in the event he was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. KIRKPATRICK advised Mrs. [REDACTED] by letter that the North Vietnamese authorities informed him that her son, [REDACTED] United States Air Force, was not being held by them and they had no information relating to him. b7c

b7c  
Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she would testify to all of the above. She further advised that if she received any information regarding COLIFAM she would immediately notify the Milwaukee Office of the FBI.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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All b7c per EO 12812-2

Date 8/19/70

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] Wisconsin, were apprised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose of the interview. b7c

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] were further advised that the interview was part of an investigation requested by J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, regarding an attempt to develop the fact that the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) is acting within the United States at the request of the Government of North Vietnam and is involved in political activity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or as a publicity agent as described by that Act.

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that his son is United States Air Force [REDACTED] and that he was shot down over North Vietnam approximately 3 1/2 years ago. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that his son is married to Mrs. [REDACTED] and they have three children: Mrs. [REDACTED] and the children are residing in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that the younger Mrs. [REDACTED] does not wish to be contacted by anyone regarding her husband. All information regarding the younger Mrs. [REDACTED] should be directed to Colonel LUTER, United States Air Force, San Antonio, Texas. b7c

Mr. [REDACTED] was told by Colonel LUTER that he is handling all matters for prisoners of war and contacts concerning the prisoners of war should be directed to him. b7c

The [REDACTED] stated that they have been contacted by COLIFAM. Contact was in the form of a letter signed by CORA WEISS, dated April 7, 1970. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated the original is in the possession of [REDACTED] but she had made a copy of this letter, which she made available to the investigating Agent. b7c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that three letters from her son have been received at [REDACTED] Wisconsin, and subsequently have been forwarded to the younger [REDACTED]. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that one letter arrived by itself; however, two other letters arrived after they had been sent b7c

On 8/11/70 at [REDACTED] Wisconsin File # 100-17068

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/14/70 b7c

MI 100-17068

2

to New York. A cover letter with the following note was attached:

"May 13, 1970

"Dear Friend,

"Today we received two packages of letters which we have been expecting from prisoners held in North Vietnam. The total number of letters in both packages was 156. Although the packages were mailed a month apart, they both arrived today. We are very happy to send herewith a letter addressed to you.

"Sincerely

"Barbara Webster"

60-12812-2  
Again, Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2c</sup> stressed the point that the originals of all correspondence are now in the hands of the younger [REDACTED]

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] <sup>b2c</sup> stated that they would be willing to testify to all that has transpired and would, if they received any further contact from COLIFAM, contact the FBI.

A copy of the letter from CORA WEISS, dated April 7, 1970, follows:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED NORTH VIETNAM  
West 42nd Street, New York N. Y. 10036

(212)765-149

CABLE ADDRESS:  
Solid AM

April 7, 1970

Co-chairmen  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

b7c

From: Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee:

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Maureen Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fuchs

\* Maggie Geddes

Steve Halliwell

Prof. Donald Kalish

Stewart Meacham

Prof. Bea Seitzman

Prof. Franz Schurmann

Ethel Taylor

\* Barbara Webster

Erudi Young

\* staff

Our Committee has recently received official confirmation of 81 more servicemen being held in North Vietnam. By now you should have

heard that [REDACTED]

is on this list. The North Vietnamese have now confirmed through the Committee of Liaison a total of 335 men being held.

This notification also means that a letter is en route from him. The enclosed release

explains how mail is forwarded via our office. Because mail from Hanoi is very

slow we cannot be sure when the letter will come, but we will forward it as soon as it arrives here.

We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us should you have any questions.

At the same time, we are continuing to work towards the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia so that soon all families, American and Vietnamese, can be united again.

Sincerely,

Cora Weiss

Dave Dellinger

P. S. Kindly excuse the mimeographed letter, but there are many families to reach at the same time.

602812-7

b7c

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Functions of the Committee

The Committee of Liaison seeks to facilitate communication between servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families in the United States. The Committee receives letters from servicemen and forwards them to the families through the domestic mails. It also forwards letters to North Vietnam at the request of families. Families are of course, still free to send letters directly but should not the correct address for both letters and packages:

Name of serviceman, serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured in the D.V.R.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Captured servicemen may receive one letter a month and one package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. The Committee does not forward packages. It is suggested that letters sent to the Committee for forwarding be sealed and that stamps be enclosed (not affixed) as letters are forwarded in packets.

The Committee is only able to be of help with respect to men who have been shot down over North Vietnam.

The Committee also is able to request information regarding the status of men thought to have been shot down over North Vietnam and captured there. For such inquiries the Committee needs to have the individual's service number, and any available information as to when and where he was shot down. With respect to such requests the Committee would expect to receive a letter to his family if the individual is being held in North Vietnam. If the individual is known to be dead or if the North Vietnamese have no information regarding him, the Committee expects to receive that word to the extent possible. In any case the Committee will communicate with the family concerned as soon as it receives word. In this way we expect that as Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, has said, gradually all families of servicemen held in North Vietnam will hear from their relatives.

### Background

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. It is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.



Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Vietnam (from both the North and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) and Americans who oppose the war. On three separate occasions representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi and have returned with released servicemen. On one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three American soldiers who were released by the National Liberation Front. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters to captured servicemen at the request of their families and they have brought back letters when they have returned to the United States. On several occasions such visitors from the peace movement have met with captured pilots in Hanoi.

#### The Committee

The Committee of Liaison believes that the safe return of U.S. servicemen captured in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the United States maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to completely withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will also continue our efforts aimed at the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Women Against Daddy Warbucks, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Strike for Peace.

The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.